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All interested parties, statutory parties and
any other person invited to the preliminary
meeting

Your Ref:

Our Ref: EN020026

Date: 10 November 2025

Dear Sir/ Madam

Planning Act 2008 – Section 89 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 – rule 8 and 9

Application by National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) for an order granting development consent for the South East Anglia Link (Sea Link) Project

Examination timetable and procedure

This letter (the Rule 8 Letter) provides important information about the examination of this application. The letter includes:

- The examination timetable.
- An invitation to submit written representations.
- A request for local impact reports from local authorities.
- Other procedural decisions made by the Examining Authority (ExA).
- Information about the availability of examination documents.
- Guidance on the use of the 'Have your say' tab on the project webpage.

All documentation associated with this examination, including the recording of the preliminary meeting, can be viewed under the [documents tab](#) on the project webpage of the Planning Inspectorate's Sea Link Project website ([project webpage](#)). The note of the preliminary meeting will be published shortly, and will be available under the same [documents tab](#).

The examination timetable

We have made a procedural decision about the way the application will be examined. The final examination timetable is attached at **annex A** to this letter.

The examination timetable replaces the draft timetable that was included in our [Rule 6 Letter](#). In finalising the examination timetable, we have sought to accommodate requests and suggestions made orally or in writing to the preliminary meeting. A list of the main changes we made to the draft examination timetable is set out at **annex B** to this letter.

Please note that the examination timetable contains a number of deadlines for receipt of information by The Planning Inspectorate. All deadlines are at 23:59 on the date specified. Please ensure submissions arrive by the deadline. If you do not make your submissions by the dates specified in the timetable, we may disregard them.

We request that all interested parties make their submissions using the '[Have your say](#)' page on the project webpage on or before the applicable deadline. **Annex D** to this letter provides further information about using the 'Have your say' page.

If we consider it necessary to vary the examination timetable during the examination, notification will be sent to interested parties, statutory parties and other persons invited to the preliminary meeting. The changes will be published on the [project webpage](#).

Written representations

All interested parties are now invited to submit written representations and any comments on the relevant representations already submitted. These should be submitted by **deadline 1** (18 November 2025) in the examination timetable.

Written representations can cover any relevant matter and are not restricted to the matters set out in our [initial assessment of principal issues](#).

Any person, other than the applicant, who submits a written representation must identify those parts of the application with which they agree and those parts with which they do not agree, explaining the reasons why. Interested parties should also provide with their written representations any data, methodology and assumptions used to support their submissions to avoid delays in the examination (see paragraph 009 of the [government's guidance on the examination stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects](#) for further information about written representations).

We have requested further types of written submissions at various points in the examination (see **annex A**).

Any written representations and any further written submissions requested during the examination, that exceed 1500 words, should also be accompanied by a summary which should not exceed 10% of the original text. The summary should set out the key facts of the written submission and must be representative of the submission made.

Representations **must not include hyperlinks** to documents/ evidence hosted on third party websites. See The Planning Inspectorate's [Advice for members of the public: Advice](#)

[for submitting representations or comments](#) for important information about making written submissions.

Local impact reports (LIR)

A LIR is a report in writing giving details of the likely impact of a proposed development on a local authority's area (or any part of that area). Local Authorities, defined in section 56A of the Planning Act 2008, are invited to submit LIRs by deadline 1 (18 November 2025). For more information about the importance and content of LIRs see our [Advice Note One: Local Impact Reports](#).

Other procedural decisions made by the Examining Authority

Annex B to this letter contains important details and clarifications about other procedural decisions we made at, or following, the preliminary meeting. These include:

- Examination timetable.
- The change notification.
- Future hearings.
- Changes to land interests.
- Additional submissions.

Format of examination events

Both blended (part in-person and part virtual) and fully virtual events will form part of the operating model. We remain flexible and will confirm the format of any hearings when we provide formal notification of each hearing in advance of it taking place.

Managing examination correspondence

Given the volume and frequency of letters the Planning Inspectorate needs to send to interested parties during an examination, we aim to communicate with people by email as electronic communication is more environmentally friendly and cost effective for the taxpayer.

If you have received a letter from The Planning Inspectorate but are able to receive communications by email, please inform the Case Team using the contact details at the top of this letter as soon as possible.

As the examination process makes substantial use of electronic documents, it will be useful for you to become familiar with the [project webpage](#).

A '[Have your say](#)' page is available on the website which provides a portal through which parties should make written submissions at relevant deadlines during the examination. Further information about the 'Have your say' page is provided at **annex D** to this letter.

You can also use the 'Get updates' button on the project webpage to register to receive automatic e-mail updates at key stages during the examination.

Your status in the examination

You have received this letter because you are a person or organisation who is involved in the NSIP process. See The Planning Inspectorate's [Advice for members of the public: National Infrastructure Projects and the people and organisations involved in the process](#) for further details.

If, having read the advice, you are still unsure about how you are involved in the process please contact the Case Team using the details at the top of this letter.

Awards of costs

All parties will normally be expected to meet their own costs. Costs can be awarded against a party who has acted unreasonably and has caused the party applying for the award of costs to incur unnecessary or wasted expense during the examination. You should be aware of the relevant costs guidance [Awards of costs: examinations of applications for development consent orders](#).

Management of information

Information, including representations, submitted in respect of this examination (if accepted by the Examining Authority) and a record of any advice which has been provided by the Planning Inspectorate is published on the [project webpage](#).

Please note that in the interest of facilitating an effective and fair examination, it is necessary to publish some personal information. To find out how we handle your personal information please view our [Privacy Notice](#).

We look forward to working with all parties in the examination of this application.

Yours faithfully

Sarah Holmes

Lead Member of the Examining Authority

Annexes

- A** Examination timetable
- B** Other procedural decisions made by the Examining Authority
- C** Examination documents
- D** Information about the 'Have your say' tab

This communication does not constitute legal advice.
Please view our [Privacy Notice](#) before sending information to The Planning Inspectorate.

Examination Timetable

The Examining Authority (ExA) is under a duty to **complete** the examination of the application within a period of no longer than **6 months** beginning with the day after the close of the preliminary meeting.

The examination of the application primarily takes the form of the consideration of written submissions. The ExA will also consider any oral representations made at hearings.

Item	Matters	Date
1	Procedural deadline A Deadline for receipt by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses to the Rule 6 letter including any written submissions on the examination procedure and draft examination timetable. • Requests to be heard orally at the preliminary meeting including which agenda items you wish to speak on, points you wish to make and why these need to be made orally rather than in writing. • Requests by interested parties to be heard orally at the open floor hearing (OFH1) commencing on Wednesday 5 November 2025. • Requests by interested parties to be heard orally at the open floor hearing (OFH2) commencing on Tuesday 11 November 2025. • Suggested locations for site inspections (Accompanied (ASI) or Unaccompanied (USI)), including justification, for consideration by the ExA. 	Wednesday 8 October 2025
2	Preliminary meeting	Wednesday 5 November 2025 at 10:00
3	Open floor hearing 1 (OFH1)	Wednesday 5 November 2025 at 14:00
4	Continuation of open floor hearing 1 (OFH1)	Thursday 6 November 2025 at 10:00
5	Issue by the ExA of: Examination Timetable	As soon as practicable after the close of the Preliminary Meeting

Item	Matters	Date
6	Issue specific hearing 1 (ISH1) on the scope of the development	Tuesday 11 November 2025 at 10:00
7	Open floor hearing 2 (OFH2)	Tuesday 11 November 2025 at 14:00
8	Continuation of open floor hearing 2 (OFH2)	Wednesday 12 November 2025 at 10:00
9	Deadline 1 For receipt by ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local impact reports (LIR) from any local authorities. Notification by statutory parties of their wish to be considered as an IP by the ExA. The applicant's updates – refer to annex E of the Rule 6 Letter Comments on relevant representations (RR). Written representations (WR) and summaries for any that exceed 1500 words. Requests by affected persons (defined in section 59(4) of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008)) to be heard at a compulsory acquisition hearing (CAH). Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010. 	Tuesday 18 November 2025
10	Deadline 1A For receipt by ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written summaries of oral submissions made at hearings held during w/c 3 and w/c 10 November 2025. 	Wednesday 26 November 2025
11	Deadline 2 For receipt by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comments on WRs. Comments on the LIRs. Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Infrastructure 	Tuesday 9 December 2025

Item	Matters	Date
	Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comments on any further information/submissions received by deadline 1 and deadline 1A. 	
12	Publication by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ExA's First Written Questions (ExQ1). 	Wednesday 17 December 2025
13	Deadline 3 For receipt by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responses to ExQ1. The applicant's updates – refer to annex E of the Rule 6 Letter Updated versions of principal areas of disagreement summary statements (PADSS). Requests by interested parties to be heard at any further OFHs. Notification of a wish to attend the ISH and CAH on the w/c 26 January 2026. Applicant's draft itinerary for ASI (if required). Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010. Comments on any further information/submissions received by deadline 2. 	Friday 9 January 2026
14	Dates reserved for hearings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issue specific hearings (ISH) (if required) Compulsory acquisition hearing (CAH) (if required) 	w/c 26 January 2026
15	Deadline 4 For receipt by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written post hearing submissions including written summaries of oral cases made at hearings the w/c 26 January 2026 (if held). Notification of a wish to attend the ISH (if required), CAH (if required) and OFH (if requested) on the w/c 23 February 2026 	Tuesday 10 February 2026

Item	Matters	Date
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on the applicant's draft itinerary for the ASI (if required). • Notification of a wish to attend the ASI (if required) on the w/c 2 March 2026. • Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010. • Comments on any further information/submissions received by deadline 3. 	
16	<p>Dates reserved for hearings and/or ExA's second written questions (ExQ2) (if required):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further issue specific hearings (ISH) (if required). • Further compulsory acquisition hearing (CAH) (if required). • Further open floor hearings (OFH) (if required) • ExQ2 (if required). 	w/c 23 February 2026
17	Dates reserved for ASIs (if required)	w/c 2 March 2026
18	<p>Deadline 5</p> <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written post hearing submissions including written summaries of oral cases made at hearings the w/c 23 February 2026 (if held). • Responses to ExQ2 (if required). • The applicant's updates – refer to annex E of the Rule 6 Letter • Updated versions of principal areas of disagreement summary statements (PADSS). • Notification of a wish to attend the ISH (if required) and CAH (if required) on the w/c 23 March 2026 • Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010. • Comments on any further information/submissions received by deadline 4. 	Tuesday 10 March 2026

19	Publication by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report on the implications for European sites (RIES) and any associated questions (if required). 	Wednesday 18 March 2026
20	Dates reserved for hearings and/or ExA's third written questions (ExQ3) (if required): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further issue specific hearings (ISH) (if required). Further compulsory acquisition hearing (CAH) (if required). ExQ3 (if required). 	w/c 23 March 2026
21	Deadline 6 For receipt by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written post hearing submissions including written summaries of oral cases made at hearings the w/c 23 March 2026 (if held). Responses to ExQ3 (if required). Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010. Comments on any further information/submissions received by deadline 5. 	Monday 13 April 2026
22	Publication by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ExA's commentary on, or schedule of changes to, the draft development consent order (dDCO) (if required). 	Friday 17 April 2026
23	Deadline 7 For receipt by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summary statements from parties regarding matters that they have previously raised during the Examination and that have not been resolved to their satisfaction. Final versions of principal areas of disagreement summary statements (PADSS). Comments on the RIES (if issued) and responses to any associated questions. 	Wednesday 29 April 2026

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on the ExA's commentary on, or schedule of changes to, the draft development consent order (dDCO) (if issued) • The applicant's closing summary statement. • The applicant's final updates – refer to annex E of the Rule 6 Letter. • Comments on the deadline 6 submissions and any other information requested by the ExA for deadline 7. • Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010. 	
24	<p>The ExA must complete the examination of the application within six months.</p> <p>Please note that the ExA may close the examination before the end of the six-month period if it is satisfied that all relevant matters have been addressed and discussed.</p>	Tuesday 5 May 2026

Submission times for Deadlines

The time for submission of documents at any deadline in the timetable is **23:59** on the relevant date, unless instructed otherwise by the ExA.

Publication dates

All information received will be published on the [project webpage](#) as soon as practicable after the deadlines for submissions.

Hearing agendas

Please note that for ISHs and CAHs the ExA will publish a high-level agenda alongside the notification of the hearing to help inform your decision about whether to register to participate. A detailed draft agenda will be made available on the [project webpage](#) at least five working days in advance of the hearing date. However, the actual agenda on the day of each hearing may be subject to change at the discretion of the ExA. For OFHs, agendas may not be published.

Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES)

Where an applicant has provided a No Significant Effects Report or a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Report with the application, the ExA may decide to issue a RIES during the examination. The RIES is a factual account of the information and evidence provided to the ExA on HRA matters during the examination up to the date of the publication of the RIES, for the purposes of enabling the Secretary of State, as competent

authority, to undertake its HRA. It is not the ExA's opinion on HRA matters. Comments on the RIES will be taken into account as part of the ExA's recommendation to the Secretary of State. The ExA may also raise questions in the RIES to confirm or clarify matters that remain outstanding.

The Secretary of State may rely on the consultation on the RIES to meet its obligations under Regulation 63(3) of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and/or Regulation 28 of The Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

Other procedural decisions made by the Examining Authority (ExA)

We have made a number of procedural decisions following the preliminary meeting:

1. Examination timetable**Requests to attend future open floor hearings (OFHs) and accompanied site inspections (ASIs)**

Following the applicant's notification that they intend to submit a change to the application at the end of November 2025 the ExA has moved future OFHs (if required) to week commencing 23 February 2026 to allow oral representations on any change, if accepted by the ExA, to be made. Subsequently the deadline to submit requests for future OFHs has been moved to deadline 3. Similarly, the week reserved for ASIs (if required) has been moved to the week commencing 2 March 2026 in case any change is accepted.

ExA's first written questions

Following representations made by Suffolk County Council, East Suffolk Council, Dover District Council, CPRE Kent, Natural England, the Marine Management Organisation (MMO), the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the applicant for the extension of the deadline for the submission of responses to the ExA's first written questions. The ExA has carefully considered these requests and has moved deadline 3 to Friday 9 January 2026.

Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES) and the ExA's commentary on, or schedule of changes to, the draft development consent order (dDCO)

Following representation made by Natural England and consideration of the change notification submitted by the applicant. After careful consideration the ExA has moved the deadline for the publication of the RIES to Wednesday 18 March 2026. Similarly, the publication of the ExA's commentary on, or schedule of changes to, the dDCO (if required) has been moved to Friday 17 April 2026.

Deadlines 6 and 7

Following representations made by Natural England and the MMO in relation to the timing of deadline 6 near the Easter public holidays. After careful consideration the ExA has moved deadline 6 to Monday 13 April 2026 and deadline 7 to Wednesday 29 April 2026.

2. The change notification

The ExA wants to ensure that all those who may be affected by, or may wish to comment on, the proposed changes are notified about the change and informed as to how they can submit a representation. The ExA therefore requests that the applicant ensures that the proposed changes are widely publicised.

3. Future hearings

Due to the extensive geographical nature of this project, to ensure an efficient and effective examination and fairness to all parties, the ExA has decided to hold the hearings

in the week of 26 January 2026 as blended events in London. The ExA consider it is vital that participation in this examination is accessible for all, including those who may have accessibility issues or restricted access to computers. Therefore, to facilitate full participation in the examination for all parties, the ExA has made a procedural decision that the applicant should arrange for satellite venues in Suffolk and Kent for use during the January hearings. These venues should be local to the proposed project and include the technology necessary to allow interested parties to participate virtually, including giving evidence to the ExA where appropriate. Whilst we acknowledge that there would be financial implications in relation to this request, we note that applicants are expected to pay the costs associated with the examination of an application and this examination has particular geographical challenges which set it apart from most NSIPs that have been examined to date.

4. Changes to land interests

When the applicant becomes aware that there has been a change in ownership, or a new interest, in relevant land the applicant is requested to make the relevant person aware that they can make a request to the ExA to become an interested party under section 102A of the PA2008. They should inform them that information about how to do this can be found in the Planning Inspectorate's advice for members of the public: [Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects and the people and organisations involved in the process](#).

The examination timetable includes various deadlines for the submission of an updated book of reference, schedule of changes to the book of reference and the land rights tracker, which should include confirmation that relevant persons have been informed of their rights under section 102A.

5. Additional submissions

In addition to the documentation submitted by procedural deadline A, we have exercised our discretion and made a procedural decision to accept additional submissions from the following:

- a. Christopher Armitstead [[AS-143](#)]
- b. Steven Nash [[AS-144](#)]
- c. Emma Tolley [[AS-145](#)]
- d. Nigel Bennett [[AS-146](#)]
- e. Great Glemham Parish Council [[AS-147](#)]
- f. National Grid Electricity Transmission [[AS-148](#)]

Examination documents

The application documents and relevant representations can be inspected on the [project webpage](#).

How to stay up to date

All further documents submitted in the course of the examination will also be published under the [documents tab](#) of the project webpage.

You can also sign up to get [email updates](#).

If you have any questions about the process, examination events or how to access the documents, you can email the project mailbox email address: southeastanglialink@planninginspectorate.gov.uk or contact us on 0303 444 5000.

The Examination Library

For ease of navigation, please refer to the [Examination Library](#) (EL) which is accessible by clicking the blue button under the documents tab. The EL is updated regularly throughout the examination.

The EL records and provides a hyperlink to:

- each application document
- each representation and submission made to the examination
- each procedural decision made by the Examining Authority

Each document is given a unique reference number which will be fixed for the duration of the examination. **Please quote the unique reference number from the EL when referring to any examination documents in any future submissions that you make.**

Information about the 'Have your say' page

The '[Have your say](#)' page is available on the [project webpage](#).

You will need to enter your unique reference number ('Your ref' found at the top your letter or email from The Planning Inspectorate). If you are making a submission on behalf of another person or organisation, and do not have your own unique reference number, then you should enter the unique reference number of the person or organisation you are representing. If you are not a registered interested party then it is at the discretion of the Examining Authority whether or not your submission is accepted.

Submissions will be published on the [project webpage](#) as soon as practicable following the close of the relevant deadline. For further information about publishing submissions please view our [Privacy Notice](#).

You will be able to submit a document (upload file), make a text representation or both. It is possible to upload multiple files for each individual submission item. Electronic attachments should be clearly labelled with the subject title and not exceed 50MB.

Submissions **must not include hyperlinks** to documents/ evidence hosted on a third party website, for example technical reports, media articles and so on. See The Planning Inspectorate's [Advice for members of the public: Advice for submitting representations or comments](#) for important information about making written submissions. All submissions must be made in a format that can be viewed in full on the National Infrastructure Planning website. Any submissions that exceed 1500 words should also be accompanied by a summary; this summary should not exceed 10% of the original text.

You should select the relevant deadline for your submission and then, on the next webpage, select the appropriate submission item as described in the examination timetable at **annex A** to this letter. Please ensure you make a separate submission for each submission item and **do not duplicate your submission**. If you consider that your submission does not fit the description of any of the submission items then please select the submission item 'Other' and ensure that it is titled appropriately.

If you experience any issues when using the '[Have your say](#)' page please contact the Case Team using the contact details at the top of this letter and they will assist.