



# 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 Wednesday 12 November 2025.

The ExA carried out its unaccompanied site inspection from publicly accessible land.

The site inspection was undertaken to view the proposed location of the converter station, Weatherlees Hill and the Sandwich Bay to Hacklinge Marshes Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). In addition, the ExA viewed seal haul out locations on the River Stour.

### **Particulars of the Site Visit**

The visit was undertaken by: Sarah Holmes, Richard Hunt, Nancy Thomas, Steven Rennie and Luke Regan. The ExA was accompanied by Louise Harraway from the case team and Claire Megginson.

The visit was undertaken by car.

Weather conditions were clear to slightly overcast with good visibility. The temperature was circa 15 degrees centigrade. Weather conditions were suitable to appreciate some long-range views. The inspection commenced at approximately 15:00 and finished at approximately 16:30. A list of the locations visited is attached at Annex A.



## The Planning Inspectorate

### Annex A: List of locations visited on the Unaccompanied Site Inspection on Wednesday 11 November 2025

The ExA travelled on foot along Brook Lane to the fishing lakes, taking in views south towards the site of the proposed converter station, noting the western extent of the SSSI and the location of Weatherlees Hill.

The ExA observed local hedgerows and the presence of bird life within the area.

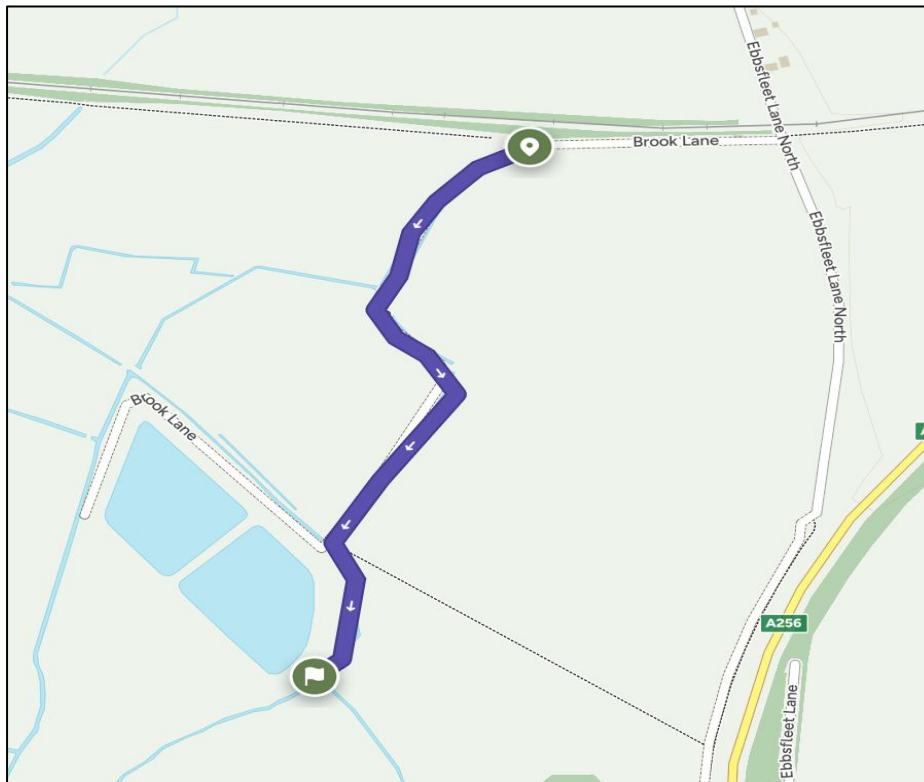
The ExA noted standing water in the fields to the south of the fishing lakes and along the continuation of Brook Lane to the south.

The ExA noted that road surfacing improvement works were being carried out along Brook Lane at the time of the site inspection.

The ExA then travelled to Ebbsfleet Lane south by car and walked through the southern part of Pegwell Bay Country Park to the 'lookout' to view the seals hauled out on the banks of the River Stour at high tide and swimming in the river channel. Approximately 80 seals, as well as a number of bird species such as oystercatcher, egret and cormorant were also observed.

The route is shown below.

**Figure 1: Map of route taken along Brook Lane**





## The Planning Inspectorate

**Figure 2: Map of route taken through Pegwell Bay Country Park to the lookout**

