The Great Grid Upgrade

Sea Link

Sea Link

Volume 9: Examination Submissions

Document 9.43: Draft Statement of Common Ground Between National Grid Electricity Transmission and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

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nationalgrid

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1. Introduction

1.1 Overview

1.1.1 This Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) has been prepared to support the application ("The Application") for the Sea Link Project ("Proposed Project") made by National Grid Electricity Transmission Ltd ("the Applicant"). The Application was submitted to the Secretary of State for a Development Consent Order (DCO) and accepted for examination on the 23 April 2025.

1.1.2 A Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) is an established means in the planning process of allowing all parties to identify and focus on specific issues that may need to be addressed during the Examination. It is prepared jointly between the Applicant and another party(s) and sets out matters of agreement between both parties, as well as matters where there is not an agreement. It also details matter's that are under discussion.

1.1.3 The aim of a SoCG is to help the Examining Authority manage the Examination Phase of a DCO application. Understanding the status of the matters at hand will allow the Examining Authority to focus their questioning and provide greater predictability for all participants in Examination. A SoCG may be submitted prior to the start of or during Examination and then updated as necessary or as requested during the Examination Phase.

1.2 This Statement of Common Ground

1.2.1 This SoCG has been prepared between the Applicant and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB). It has been prepared in accordance with the guidance published by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 2024).

1.2.2 A draft SoCG has been prepared based on RSPB's Relevant Representation. This draft was issued to RSPB on the 18 November once the responses to the Relevant Representations had been finalised. As the SoCG is with RSPB for comment, all the matters raised in Table 3.1 have been marked as under discussion.

1.2.3 This SoCG will be progressed during the Examination period to reach a final position between the Applicant and RSPB and to clarify if any issues remain unresolved. This SoCG will be revised and updated as appropriate and/or required by the Examining Authority at relevant examination deadlines.

1.2.4 For the purpose of this SoCG, the Applicant and RSPB are jointly referred to as the "Parties". When referencing RSPB alone, they are referred to as "the Consultee".

1.3 The Role of RSPB in the DCO Process

1.3.1 The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (registered Charity England and Wales number 207076, Scotland number SC037654, 'the RSPB') was set up in 1889. It is a registered charity incorporated by Royal Charter and is Europe's largest wildlife conservation organisation. The RSPB manages 222 nature reserves in the UK covering an area of over 158,000 hectares.

1.3.2 The RSPB is registered as an Interested Party by virtue of Section 57(1) and 102(1)(aa) of the Planning Act 2008 due to its freehold ownership of land at RSPB North Warren which is affected by the Proposed Project.

1.4 Description of the Proposed Project

1.4.1 The Proposed Project is a proposal by National Grid to reinforce the transmission network in the Southeast and East Anglia. The Proposed Project is required to accommodate additional power flows generated from renewable and low carbon generation, as well as accommodating additional new interconnection with mainland Europe.

1.4.2 National Grid owns, builds and maintains the electricity transmission network in England and Wales. Under the Electricity Act 1989, National Grid holds a transmission licence under which it is required to develop and maintain an efficient, coordinated, and economic electricity transmission system.

1.4.3 This would be achieved by reinforcing the network with a High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) Link between the proposed Friston substation in the Sizewell area of Suffolk and the existing Richborough to Canterbury 400 kV overhead line close to Richborough in Kent.

1.4.4 National Grid is also required, under Section 38 of the Electricity Act 1989, to comply with the provisions of Schedule 9 of the Act. Schedule 9 requires licence holders, in the formulation of proposals to transmit electricity, to:

1.4.5 Schedule 9(1)(a) '…*have regard to the desirability of preserving natural beauty, of conserving flora, fauna and geological or physiographical features of special interest and of protecting sites, buildings and objects of architectural, historic or archaeological interest*;' and

1.4.6 Schedule 9(1)(b) *'…do what [it] reasonably can to mitigate any effect which the proposals would have on the natural beauty of the countryside or on any such flora, fauna, features, sites, buildings or objects'*.

1.4.7 The Proposed Project would comprise the following elements:

The Suffolk Onshore Scheme

- A connection from the existing transmission network via Friston Substation, including the substation itself. Friston Substation already has development consent as part of other third-party projects. If Friston Substation has already been constructed under another consent, only a connection into the substation would be constructed as part of the Proposed Project.
- A high voltage alternating current (HVAC) underground cable of approximately 1.9 km in length between the proposed Friston Substation and a proposed converter station (below).
- A 2 GW high voltage direct current (HVDC) converter station (including permanent access from the B1121 and a new bridge over the River Fromus) up to 26 m high plus external equipment (such as lightning protection, safety rails for maintenance works, ventilation equipment, aerials, similar small scale operational plant, or other roof treatment) near Saxmundham.

- A HVDC underground cable connection of approximately 10 km in length between the proposed converter station near Saxmundham, and a transition joint bay (TJB) approximately 900 m inshore from a landfall point (below) where the cable transitions from onshore to offshore technology.
- A landfall on the Suffolk coast (between Aldeburgh and Thorpeness).

The Offshore Scheme:

- Approximately 122 km of subsea HVDC cable, running between the Suffolk landfall location (between Aldeburgh and Thorpeness), and the Kent landfall location at Pegwell Bay.

The Kent Onshore Scheme:

- A landfall point on the Kent coast at Pegwell Bay.
- A TJB approximately 800 m inshore to transition from offshore HVDC cable to onshore HVDC cable, before continuing underground for approximately 1.7 km to a new converter station (below).
- A 2 GW HVDC converter station (including a new permanent access off the A256), up to 28 m high plus external equipment such as lightning protection, safety rails for maintenance works, ventilation equipment, aerials, and similar small scale operational plant near Minster. A new substation would be located immediately adjacent.
- Removal of approximately 2.2 km of existing HVAC overhead line, and installation of two sections of new HVAC overhead line, together totalling approximately 3.5 km, each connecting from the substation near Minster and the existing Richborough to Canterbury overhead line.

1.4.8 The Proposed Project also includes modifications to sections of existing overhead lines in Suffolk (only if Friston Substation is not built pursuant to another consent) and Kent, diversions of third-party assets, and land drainage from the construction and operational footprint. It also includes opportunities for environmental mitigation and compensation. The construction phase will involve various temporary construction activities including overhead line diversions, use of temporary towers or masts, working areas for construction equipment and machinery, site offices, parking spaces, storage, accesses, bellmouths, and haul roads, as well as watercourse crossings and the diversion of public rights of way (PROWs) and other ancillary operations.

1.5 Format of Document and Terminology used

1.5.1 Section 2 of this SoCG summarises the engagement the Parties have had with regard to the Proposed Project.

1.5.2 Section 3 of this SoCG summarises the issues that are ‘agreed’, ‘not agreed’, ‘not agreed but not material’, or are ‘under discussion’. ‘Not agreed’ indicates a final position where the Parties have agreed to disagree, whilst ‘Agreed’ indicates where the issue has been resolved. ‘Not agreed but not material’ indicates that although the parties have not agreed a position on an issue, both parties agree that the issue is not material to determination of the DCO and the matter is considered closed.

1.5.3 Abbreviations used within the SoCG are provided in Table 1.1 below.

Table 1.1 Abbreviations

Abbreviation/Term	Definition
DCO	Development Consent Order
HOT	Heads of Term
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

2. Record of Engagement

2.1 Summary of discussions

2.1.1 Table 2.1 summarises the consultation and engagement that has taken place between the Parties.

Table 2.1 Record of meetings and correspondence with RSPB

Date	Topic/Format	Discussion points
09/02/2022	*Introduction to the Proposed Project / Teams meeting*	*The meeting introduced National Grid and the Proposed Project and the Need Case. The call went through the work to date and the indicative timeline.*
22/06/2022	*Update to the Proposed Project / Teams meeting*	*The meeting provided an update on the Proposed Project.*
03/08/2022	*Update to the Proposed Project / Teams meeting*	*The meeting provided an update on the Proposed Project as well as outlining the ground investigation locations in or close to North Warren Reserve and the marine aspect of the Proposed Project.*
November 2022	*Project Introduction and Surveys/ Letter/Emails*	*Initial project introduction and request for survey access.*
January/ February 2023	*Surveys/ Emails*	*Correspondence to agree non-intrusive survey access.*
31 March 2023	*Suffolk Coast Electricity Cable Ecology Group introduction meeting*	*The meeting provided an update on the Proposed Project and timeline as well as option development.*
Summer/Autumn 2023	*Surveys / Emails/ site meetings*	*Meetings and correspondence to discuss, agree and undertake GI surveys in September/October 2023.*
08/09/2023	*Avoidance and Mitigation / Teams Meeting*	*The meeting provided an update on the Proposed Project and timeline as well as option development.*
2024	*Surveys / Emails*	*Correspondence regarding ongoing survey access.*
30/04/2024	*Suffolk Coast Electricity Cable Ecology Group*	*The meeting provided an update on the Proposed Project and timeline as well as option development.*

Date	Topic/Format	Discussion points
	introduction meeting	
08/07/2024	*Targeted Consultation/ Letter*	*Letter to inform of further consultation period.*
20/07/2024	*Suffolk Coast Electricity Cable Ecology Group introduction meeting*	*The meeting provided an update on the Proposed Project and timeline as well as option development.*
01/08/2024	*Targeted Consultation / Teams meeting*	*Meeting with wider RSPB team to discuss project updates at targeted consultation.*
06/11/2024	*Discounting Sizewell / Teams Meeting*	*Meeting to discuss Sizewell.*
24/01/2025	*Heads of Terms (HOTs) / Email/Post*	*Issue template HOTs.*
28/02/2025	*HOTs / Email/Post*	*Issue populated HOTS – first issue.*
04/03/2025	*HOTs/ Teams Meeting*	*Suffolk agents meeting to discuss template HOTs.*
April/May 2025	*HOTs/ Email*	*Various emails with RSPB agent regarding populated HOTs.*
04/03/2025	*HOTs/ Teams Meeting*	*Suffolk agents meeting to discuss template HOTs.*
April/May 2025	*HOTs/ Email*	*Various emails with RSPB agent regarding populated HOTs.*
09/05/2025	*HOTs/ Teams Meeting*	*Discuss specific RSPB queries/amendments on HOTs with RSPB agent.*
19/06/2025	*HOTs/ Teams Meeting*	*Suffolk agents meeting to discuss template HOTs.*
May/June 2025	*HOTs/ Email*	*Various emails to RSPB agent (as part of Suffolk agents group) regarding template HOTs.*
June 2025	*Surveys/ Email*	*Various emails with RSPB agent regarding renewing survey access licence.*
June/July 2025	*HOTs/ Email*	*Various emails to RSPB agent to respond to RSPB queries in relation to DCO submission that will impact on HOTs negotiations.*
06/08/2025	*HOTs/ Teams Meeting*	*Finalise HOTs queries to discuss at site meeting with RSPB agent.*

Date	Topic/Format	Discussion points
19/08/2025	*HOTs/ Email*	*Issued revised template HOTs to RSPB agent.*
21/08/2025	*HOTs/ Site visit*	*HOTs queries regarding access and frac out.*

3. Areas of Discussion Between the Parties

3.1 Position of the Parties

Table 3.1 Position of the Parties

Ref	Relevant Application Documents	Description of Matter	Consultee's Current Position	The Applicant Current Position	Status
3.1.1	**Application Document 6.2.2.2 Part 2 Suffolk Chapter 2 Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-049]** **Application Document 6.2.2.13 Part 2 Suffolk Chapter 13 Suffolk Onshore Scheme Inter-Project Cumulative Effects [APP-060]** **Application Document 6.6 Habitats Regulations Assessment Report [APP-290]** **Application Document 7.5.3.2 CEMP Appendix B Register of Environmental Actions and Commitments (REAC) [APP-342]** **Application Document 7.5.7.1 Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan – Suffolk [APP-348]**	Impacts on Ecology - Suffolk	The onshore cables will pass underneath the Leiston-Aldeburgh Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) close to the Sandlings Special Protection Area (SPA), both of which are partly within the RSPB's North Warren nature reserve. Our focus is the potential impacts of installing the cables and associated construction and access activity on key habitats and species of these important nature conservation sites. Our concerns include, but are not limited to, • the adequacy of the initial environmental assessments forming part of the project's Environmental Impact Assessment and Habitat's Regulations Assessment, • the proposed safeguards/ecological mitigation around the use of trenchless cabling techniques and any ecological impacts and future maintenance issues this may require, • the draft DCO excluding the possibility for the Applicant to revert to open trenching for the Suffolk landfall; both for the initial works and any future maintenance/repairs, the potential disturbance of birds through e.g. noise and lighting impacts, • the ability for the existing land uses at North Warren to continue during the construction works period and any future periods of maintenance etc., • the overall potential for works (including access routes) to damage habitats at the site or affect their longer-term management and achievement of their conservation objectives, • the limited monitoring proposed and the ability to identify requirements for further mitigation should there be further impacts	The environmental assessments have been undertaken in accordance with guidance and best practice. In terms of the adequacy of the environmental assessments, we note that the application has been deemed acceptable and the Environmental Statement has been found to be of a satisfactory standard by the ExA in accordance with the requirements of Section 55 of the Planning Act 2008. The Applicant therefore maintains that the environmental assessments associated with the Proposed Project are adequate. The impact of the Proposed Project on ecology and biodiversity in Suffolk has been considered in detail in **Application Document 6.2.2.2 Part 2 Suffolk Chapter 2 Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-049]**, **Application Document 6.2.2.13 Part 2 Suffolk Chapter 13 Suffolk Onshore Scheme Inter-Project Cumulative Effects [APP-060]** and **Application Document 6.6 Habitats Regulations Assessment Report [APP-290]**. The assessment includes consideration of potential impacts on designated sites, such as Leiston-Aldeburgh SSSI, Sandlings SPA and RSPB's North Warren nature reserve; as well as impacts on habitats and protected species. Specifically, potential for disturbance of birds from noise and lighting has been assessed in paragraphs 2.9.78 to 2.9.86 and 2.9.189 to 2.190 of **Application Document 6.2.2.2 Part 2 Suffolk Chapter 2 Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-049]**. Whilst the effects of the trenchless installation on surface habitats and hydrology (and thus ability for existing land uses to continue) in Leiston-Aldeburgh SSSI/North Warren Reserve, including access tracks, is discussed in paragraphs 2.9.7 to 2.9.9 and associated bullets, paragraph 2.9.25 and paragraphs 2.9.165 and 2.9.166 of **Application Document 6.2.2.2 Part 2 Suffolk Chapter 2 Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-049]**. These paragraphs also discuss how issues such as risk of frac out and risk of stuck drilling equipment and how these would be resolved if they arose. Mitigation for any potentially significant effects on ecology and biodiversity is set out in the documents cited above, as well as in **Application Document 7.5.3.2 CEMP Appendix B Register of Environmental Actions and Commitments (REAC) [APP-342]** and **Application Document 7.5.7.1 Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan – Suffolk [AS-059]**. With the	Under discussion

Ref	Relevant Application Documents	Description of Matter	Consultee's Current Position	The Applicant Current Position	Status
			on the nature conservation interests (the feedback loop mechanism), and; • procedures for emergencies or faults occurring during either construction or operation and associated impacts.	implementation of these measures, it is concluded that no significant residual long term adverse effects will remain. Overall, there will be a net increase in habitat for most ecological receptors as a result of the Proposed Project. With regards to the exclusion of open trenching techniques for cable installation at the landfall, the Applicant remains confident in the feasibility of the proposed trenchless technique as set out in Appendix A Landfall Feasibility Technical Note of **Application Document 7.3 Design Development Report [APP-321]**. As such, the Applicant has committed to the use of trenchless techniques at the landfall and there are no proposals in the DCO to allow open cut trenching, even as a fall-back position. If trenchless techniques were for any reason identified as not feasible, any proposals for alternative methods would require a formal amendment to the DCO, with a new supporting environmental assessment.	
3.1.2	**Application Document 6.2.3.3 Part 3 Kent Chapter 3 Cultural Heritage [APP-062]** **Application Document 6.2.3.13 Part 3 Kent Chapter 13 Kent Onshore Scheme Inter-Project Cumulative Effects [APP-073]** **Application Document 6.6 Habitats Regulations Assessment Report [APP-290]** **Application Document 7.5.3.2 CEMP Appendix B Register of Environmental Actions and Commitments (REAC) [APP-342]** **Application Document 7.5.7.2 Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan – Kent [APP-349]**	Impacts on Ecology - Kent	The onshore cables will pass through the Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay SPA, Sandwich Bay Special Area of Conservation and Sandwich Bay and Hacklinge Marshes SSSI. In addition to our concerns about the proposed works site selection and minimal consideration of the mitigation hierarchy, namely that less damaging options have not been considered, we are concerned about potential direct and indirect impacts on the species and habitats of the area, including qualifying species for the Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay SPA such as Golden Plover and Turnstone, and functionally linked land (Minster Marshes). We will be wanting to comment on proposals to mitigate loss of open land for wintering Golden Plover, including suitability of location, and the evidence used to inform these proposals. Our concerns include, but are not limited to, • the adequacy of the initial environmental assessments forming part of the project's Environmental Impact Assessment and Habitat's Regulations Assessment, • the safeguards/ecological mitigation around the proposed use of trenchless cabling techniques and associated infrastructure • any associated habitat impacts and future maintenance issues this may cause, and; • the protection of the shoreline and intertidal habitat together more generally with their important species such as Turnstone.	In terms of site selection, **Application Document 6.2.3.1 Part 1 Introduction Chapter 3 Main Alternatives Considered [APP-044]** provides a description of the reasonable alternatives considered and the main reasons for selecting the chosen option including a comparison of the environmental effects, as required under Part 2 Schedule 4 of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. The Proposed Project is a High Voltage Direct Current (HDVC) link which comprises different components, namely marine HVDC cable, landfalls, terrestrial HVDC cable, converter stations and an Alternating Current (AC) connection to the network connection point. In identifying an overall preferred solution, the appraisals of these individual components are brought together to identify the most appropriate overall design. Therefore, in identifying a preferred landfall and converter station site the constraints of the marine HVDC cable route, terrestrial HVDC cable route and AC connection are all taken into consideration. **Application Document 8.1 Corridor Preliminary Routeing and Substation Siting study (October 2022) [APP-368]** describes this process. While the Applicant may identify certain areas to be more constrained than alternatives based on certain factors, the preferred design represents the overall most appropriate solution, taking all elements into account. The Applicant therefore considers that it has met the requirements of both EN-1 and EN-5 in terms of demonstrating that environmental constraints have been avoided where possible, including avoidance through the commitment to constructing under, rather than through, key habitats and sections of designated sites. The Applicant has followed the mitigation hierarchy and identified opportunities to avoid and mitigate constraints whenever possible. Significant amounts of environmental survey and assessment have been undertaken, technical design work, and stakeholder	Under discussion

Ref	Relevant Application Documents	Description of Matter	Consultee's Current Position	The Applicant Current Position	Status
				consultation to inform the Applicant's approach to reducing impacts which for Kent are set out in Part 3 of the Environmental Statement. **Application Document 7.3 Design Development Report [APP-321]** explains how the design of the Proposed Project has evolved from strategic options through to that applied for and how environmental constraints from desktop and field surveys alongside stakeholder feedback have fed into that process The impact of the Proposed Project on ecology in Kent has been considered in detail in **Application Document 6.2.3.2 Part 3 Kent Chapter 2 Ecology and Biodiversity [AS-047]**, **Application Document 6.2.3.13 Part 3 Kent Chapter 13 Kent Onshore Scheme Inter-Project Cumulative Effects [APP-073]** and **Application Document 6.6 Habitats Regulations Assessment Report [APP-290]**. Mitigation for any potentially significant effects is set out in those documents, and in **Application Document 7.5.3.2 CEMP Appendix B Register of Environmental Actions and Commitments (REAC) [APP-342]** and **Application Document 7.5.7.2 Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan – Kent [APP-349]**. With the implementation of these measures, it is concluded that no significant residual long term adverse effects will remain. The proposals for mitigation for loss of functionally-linked farmland for golden plover have been agreed with Natural England and secured in the **Application Document 7.5.3.2 CEMP Appendix B Register of Environmental Actions and Commitments [APP-342]**. Overall, there will be a net increase in habitat for most ecological receptors as a result of the Proposed Project. With regards to trenchless techniques and associated safeguards including impacts on habitats such as the saltmarsh are discussed in paragraphs 2.9.7 to 2.9.9, 2.9.33 to 2.9.39 and 2.9.173 to 2.9.175 of **Application Document AS-047** as well as **Application Document 6.2.4.2 (C) Part 4 Marine Chapter 2 Benthic Ecology [AS-087]**, **Application Document 9.13 Pegwell Bay Construction Method Technical Note**, and **Application Document 9.49 Seals and Airborne Sound Disturbance Technical Note**. This includes consideration of issues such as habitat loss, frac out and stuck drilling equipment, the risk of these, and how they will be avoided or mitigated.	
			We wish to comment on the additional risk of damage occurring, as has happened with previous similar schemes. We may also wish to comment on the risk that future events, such as flooding, may cause harm to the infrastructure and the potential that such damage may have knock-on impacts on the nearby habitats. Regarding Minster Marshes, where a converter station and pylons are proposed, we may	It is understood that the reference to 'previous similar schemes' has been made in relation to the Nemo Link project. The Applicant understands this project included open trenching within its Marine Licence application and therefore, as explained above, this differs significantly from the landfall proposals for the Proposed Project which do not allow for open trenching at the landfall. The Applicant also notes that Nemo Link is not a National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) project but a National Grid	

Ref	Relevant Application Documents	Description of Matter	Consultee's Current Position	The Applicant Current Position	Status
			wish to address potential impacts on farmland and wetland birds and proposals for mitigation.	Ventures (NGV) joint venture with Belgian Elia. These are both separate businesses from National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET), as explained in paragraph 1.6 of the **Application Document 7.1 Planning Statement [AS-057]**. The Projects design has embedded resilience against future flood events, by accommodating allowances for climate change, for example, in sizing of drainage features and river crossings. There is also a commitment (W12) within **Application Document 7.5.3.2 CEMP Appendix B Register of Environmental Actions and Commitments (REAC) [APP-342]** to the monitoring of the existing flood defences at the landfall sites, during the cable installation in accordance with protocols agreement with Environment Agency to ensure no detriment to the integrity of the defences, safeguarding the Proposed Project from the risk of coastal flooding, as well as preventing the risk of knock on detriment to nearby habitats. Impacts on farmland and wetland birds have been considered in detail in **Application Document 6.2.3.2 Part 3 Kent Chapter 2 Ecology and Biodiversity [AS-047]**, **Application Document 6.2.3.13 Part 3 Kent Chapter 13 Kent Onshore Scheme Inter-Project Cumulative Effects [APP-073]** and **Application Document 6.6 Habitats Regulations Assessment Report [APP-290].** Mitigation for any potentially significant effects is set out in those documents, and in **Application Document 7.5.3.2 CEMP Appendix B Register of Environmental Actions and Commitments (REAC) [APP-342]** and **Application Document 7.5.7.2 Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan – Kent [APP-349]**.	
3.1.3	**Application Document 7.8 Red Throated Diver Protocol [APP-361]** **Application Document 7.5.3.1 CEMP Appendix A Outline Code of Construction Practice [APP-341]** **Application Document 7.5.3.2 CEMP Appendix B Register of Environmental Actions and Commitments (REAC) [APP-342]**	Impacts on marine ecology	The RSPB is also concerned about the potential disturbance and displacement impacts of construction, installation, maintenance and decommissioning of the subsea high voltage cable (HVDC) on the Outer Thames Estuary SPA's Red-throated Diver.	The Applicant has committed to a seasonal restriction between 1 November – 31 March for offshore cable burial activities (excluding pre-lay grapnel run activities) in the Outer Thames Estuary SPA, with a restriction between 1 January – 31 March for landfall cable installation activities at the Suffolk Landfall in Aldeburgh. This will avoid construction and vessel presence, during the sensitive wintering period for Red-throated Diver. These measures are set out in the **Application Document 7.8 Red Throated Diver Protocol [APP-361]** and the **Application Document 7.5.3.1 CEMP Appendix A Outline Code of Construction Practice [APP-341]** and **Application Document 7.5.3.2 CEMP Appendix B Register of Environmental Actions and Commitments (REAC) [APP-342]**. The seasonal restriction is secured via Schedule 2, Requirement 11 of the **Application Document 3.1 draft Development Consent Order (DCO) [APP-007]**. The Applicant is continuing to engage with Natural England on the exclusion of the pre-lay grapnel run activities from the seasonal restrictions.	Under discussion

Ref	Relevant Application Documents	Description of Matter	Consultee's Current Position	The Applicant Current Position	Status
	Application Document 3.1 draft Development Consent Order (DCO) [APP-007]				

4. Approvals

Signed	

On Behalf of	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Name	
Position	
Date	

Signed	

On Behalf of	National Grid
Name	
Position	
Date	

5. References

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. (2024). *Planning Act 2008: Examination stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects*. Retrieved from https://www.gov.uk/guidance/planning-act-2008-examination-stage-for-nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects

National Grid plc
National Grid House,
Warwick Technology Park,
Gallows Hill, Warwick.
CV34 6DA United Kingdom

Registered in England and Wales
No. 4031152
nationalgrid.com