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**National Grid Reference 9.76.1**

BY EMAIL ONLY

26 November 2025

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

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

**Proposed Change to Development Consent Order**

1.1.1 This cover letter has been prepared by National Grid to accompany the Change Request Application (Change Request) for the following 5 proposed changes to the DCO Application reference EN020026.

- Change 1 - Change to access at the former Hoverport, Pegwell Bay, Kent
- Change 2 - Change to limits of deviation for Friston (Kiln Lane) substation, Suffolk
- Change 3 – Change to the Order Limits east of Friston to provide flexibility in relation to heritage feature, Suffolk
- Change 4 - Benhall Railway Bridge, Suffolk
- Change 5 - Increase in area for maintenance of a new hedge to south of B1119

**Prior Notification of the Proposed Changes**

1.1.2 The Notification of National Grid's Intention to Submit a Request for Proposed Changes to the DCO Application was sent to the Examining Authority (ExA) on 16

September 2025 **[AS-138]** (the Notification Letter) and provided the details and background to the request for the proposed changes.

- 1.1.3 The ExA's Rule 9 Letter **[PD-011]** dated 25 September 2025 acknowledged National Grid's intention to submit a request for changes to the application and confirmed that *"The ExA is therefore satisfied that the proposed changes, whether considered individually or taken together, would not be so substantial as to amount to a materially different project from that which was applied for"*.
- 1.1.4 In the Rule 9 letter **[PD-011]** the ExA advised National Grid on key points to be considered in the Change Request.

### **Guidance Used to Prepare the Change Request**

- 1.1.5 National Grid has prepared the Change Request with due regard to [Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Changes to an application after it has been accepted for examination - GOV.UK](#) (the Guidance) and additional requirements identified in the ExA's Rule 9 letter **[PD-011]**.

### **Significance of Environmental Effects of the Proposed Changes**

- 1.1.6 A Change Request: Addendum to Volume 6 Environmental Statement as shown in **Application Document 9.76.5 New Document** submitted with the Change Request concluded no new or different significant environmental effects compared to those reported in the Environmental Statement.

### **Targeted Consultation**

- 1.1.7 National Grid voluntarily carried out consultation on the proposed changes and a non-statutory consultation exercise was carried out over a period of 31 days commencing on 7 October 2025 and closing at 23:59 on 7 November 2025.
- 1.1.8 Given the limited proposed changes to the Proposed Project, targeted engagement was completed on the proposed changes. The targeted consultation included local authorities, prescribed consultees, persons with an interest in the land affected by the proposed changes (Section 42(1) (a) to (d) parties and a select group of households.
- 1.1.9 The Application has provided a Consultation Report (see **Application 9.76.3 New Document submitted with the Change Request**) which confirms who has been consulted and how they have been consulted in relation to the proposed changes, and how National Grid has considered the content in the responses received.

- 1.1.10 Change 3 and 4 have been amended since issue of the Notification letter **[AS-138]** to the ExA in response to feedback from , Historic England, the County Archaeologist, East Suffolk Council, landowners and local communities. These amendments have also been informed by survey results. The amended change descriptions are included in the change summary report as shown in **Application Document 9.76.2** submitted with the Change Request.
- 1.1.11 National Grid considers these changes to be relatively minor in nature, not altering the substance of the Scheme as applied for in March 2025. This aligns with the ExA's Rule 9 letter **[PD-011]** that, *"the proposed changes, whether considered individually or taken together, would not be so substantial as to amount to a materially different project from that which was applied for"*.

### **Compulsory Acquisition**

- 1.1.12 National Grid confirms that additional compulsory acquisition powers are sought (in relation to land outside of the current Order Limits for proposed changes 1, 3 and 5. Regulations 5 to 19 of the CA Regulations are therefore engaged. Due to these changes, it has been necessary to make some changes to existing plots, both where plots required splitting and hence re-numbering, but also where the class of right sought for that existing plot has had to change. This is reflected in the submitted documents.
- 1.1.13 National Grid has consulted with all parties with an interest in the additional land to be included in the Order Limits. The majority of interested parties had previously been engaged with during previous consultation on the Proposed Project as they are affected persons in relation to land already included in the current Order Limits.
- 1.1.14 National Grid will give notice and publicise the proposed changes in accordance with the CA Regulations. National Grid has submitted with this Change Request the required documents as prescribed by regulation 5 of the CA Regulations.
- 1.1.15 In line with the Guidance the Change Request Report **see Application Document 9.76.2** provides a detailed description of how National Grid considers the procedures in regulations 6-19 of the CA Regulations can be accommodated within the examination timetable as set by the ExA in their Rule 8 letter **[PD-013]** dated 10 November 2025.
- 1.1.16 The Guidance on Changes to Development Consent Orders and associated Regulation 5 of the Compulsory Acquisition Regulations 2010, sets out what must be included in a change application in respect of additional compulsory acquisition powers.

- a supplement to the Book of Reference (see **Application Document 4.3 (C) (version 2, change request) Supplementary Book of Reference**);
- a land plan identifying the additional land, or the land affected by the proposed provision of additional compulsory acquisition (clean and track changed version from the latest version of the land plans submitted to the examination) (see **Application Document 2.3 (C) (version 2, change request) Land Plans Part 1 of 2 and Part 2 of 2**);
- a statement of reasons setting out why the additional land is required (see **Application Document 4.2 (E) (version 2, change request) Statement of Reasons**); and
- a statement indicating how it is proposed to fund acquisition of the additional land (a funding statement) (see **Application Document 4.1 (A) (version 2, change request) Funding Statement** submitted with this Change Request).

1.1.17 In the case of the Sea Link Change Request, a full suite of land plans is submitted and only the sheets relevant to the proposed changes have been updated. In line with the Compulsory Acquisition Regulations a supplement to the Book of Reference has been submitted. This will then be integrated into a revised Book of Reference if the changes are accepted. The Land Rights Tracker has also been updated in relation to the updated land plots.

1.1.18 In addition, the Funding Statement (see **Application Document 4.1 (A) (version 2, change request) Funding Statement**) and Statement of Reasons (see **Application Document 4.2 (E) (version 2, change request) Statement of Reasons**), with appendices have all been updated to reflect the proposed changes.

1.1.19 The Change Request Report (see **Application Document 9.76.3 (A) (version 2, change request) Change Request Report**), and supplemental documents describe the changes sought to the project clearly along with the rationale for requesting them. To ensure clarity until the supplemental documents can be merged on acceptance, all change request supporting documents are prefixed with 'Version 2 – change request' title.

### **Submission of Updated and Additional Documents**

The deliverables submitted as part of the Change Request submission are listed in Table 1.1.

**Table 1.1 Change Request Documents Submitted**

<b>Application Document Ref</b>	<b>Name of Document</b>	<b>Most Recent Planning Inspectorate Reference</b>	<b>Justification/Commentary</b>
<b>Volume 2. Plans and Drawings</b>			
2.2	Location Plans	APP-018	Change Request areas are included.
2.3	Land Plans Part 1 of 2	PDA-005	Change Request areas are included
2.3	Land Plans Part 2 of 2	PDA-006	Change Request areas are included
2.3	Land Plans Part 1 of 2 Summary of Changes	N/A	
2.3	Land Plans Part 2 of 2 Summary of Changes	N/A	
2.4	Special Category and Crown Land Plans Part 2 of 2	PDA-008	Change Request areas are included
2.5.1	Work Plans - Suffolk	REP1-001	Change Request areas are included
2.5.2	Work Plans - Kent	REP1-002	Change Request areas are included
2.5.3	Work Plans - Offshore	APP-023	Change Request areas are included
2.6	Traffic Regulation Order Plans	APP-024	Change Request areas are included
2.7	Access, Rights of Way and Public Rights of Navigation Plans	AS-011	Change Request areas are included
2.8.1	Statutory and Non Statutory Sites of Nature Conservation Geological and Landscape Importance - Suffolk	APP-026	Change Request areas are included
2.8.2	Statutory and Non Statutory Sites of Nature Conservation Geological and Landscape Importance - Kent	APP-027	Change Request areas are included
2.8.3	Statutory and Non Statutory Sites of Nature Conservation Geological and Landscape Importance - Offshore	APP-028	Change Request areas are included

<b>Application Document Ref</b>	<b>Name of Document</b>	<b>Most Recent Planning Inspectorate Reference</b>	<b>Justification/Commentary</b>
2.9	Habitats of Protected Species and Important Habitats	APP-029	Change Request areas are included
2.9.3	CONFIDENTIAL Habitats of Protected Species - Location of Badger Setts Plans - Suffolk	APP-030	Change Request areas are included
2.9.4	CONFIDENTIAL Habitats of Protected Species - Location of Badger Setts Plans - Kent	APP-031	Change Request areas are included
2.10.1	Statutory and Non-Statutory Sites and Features of the Historic Environment - Suffolk	APP-032	Change Request areas are included
2.10.2	Statutory and Non-Statutory Sites and Features of the Historic Environment - Kent	APP-033	Change Request areas are included
2.10.3	Statutory and Non-Statutory Sites and Features of the Historic Environment - Offshore	APP-034	Change Request areas are included
2.11	Water Bodies in the River Basin Plans	APP-035	Change Request areas are included
2.12	Trees and Important Hedgerows to be Removed or Managed Plans	APP-036	Change Request areas are included
2.14.1	Indicative General Arrangements Plans - Suffolk	APP-038	Change Request areas are included
2.14.2	Indicative General Arrangements Plans - Kent	APP-039	Change Request areas are included
2.14.3	Indicative General Arrangements Plans - Offshore	APP-040	Change Request areas are included
<b>Volume 3. Development Consent Order</b>			
3.1	draft Development Consent Order (clean)	AS-100	Change Request areas are included

<b>Application Document Ref</b>	<b>Name of Document</b>	<b>Most Recent Planning Inspectorate Reference</b>	<b>Justification/Commentary</b>
3.1	draft Development Consent Order (tracked)	AS-100	Change Request areas are included
3.2	Explanatory Memorandum (clean)	AS-089	Change Request areas are included
3.2	Explanatory Memorandum (tracked)	AS-089	Change Request areas are included
<b>Volume 4. Compulsory Acquisition Information</b>			
4.1	Funding Statement (clean)	APP-011	Change Request areas are included
4.1	Funding Statement (tracked)	APP-011	Change Request areas are included
4.2	Statement of Reasons (clean)	REP1-040	Change Request areas are included
4.2	Statement of Reasons (tracked)	REP1-040	Change Request areas are included
4.2.1	SoR Appendix A Compulsory Acquisition and Temporary Possession Powers (clean)	REP1-042	Change Request areas are included
4.2.1	SoR Appendix A Compulsory Acquisition and Temporary Possession Powers (tracked)	REP1-042	Change Request areas are included
4.2.2	SoR Appendix B Schedule of Negotiations with Land Interests (clean)	PDA-011	Change Request areas are included
4.2.2	SoR Appendix B Schedule of Negotiations with Land Interests (tracked)	PDA-011	Change Request areas are included
4.2.3	SoR Appendix C Special Category Land Report (clean)	PDA-013	Change Request areas are included
4.2.3	SoR Appendix C Special Category Land Report (tracked)	PDA-013	Change Request areas are included

<b>Application Document Ref</b>	<b>Name of Document</b>	<b>Most Recent Planning Inspectorate Reference</b>	<b>Justification/Commentary</b>
4.3	Supplementary Book of Reference	PDA-015	Change Request areas are included. Note this is not a full iteration of the Book of Reference.
<b>Volume 5. Consultation Report</b>			
7.5.1.1	Outline Construction Traffic Management and Travel Plan – Suffolk (clean)	AS-008	Change Request areas are included
7.5.1.1	Outline Construction Traffic Management and Travel Plan – Suffolk (tracked)	AS-008	Change Request areas are included
7.5.3.2	CEMP Appendix B Register of Environmental Actions and Commitments (REAC) (clean)	REP1-102	Change Request areas are included
7.5.3.2	CEMP Appendix B Register of Environmental Actions and Commitments (REAC) (tracked)	REP1-102	Change Request areas are included
7.5.7.1	Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan – Suffolk (clean)	AS-059	Change Request areas are included
7.5.7.1	Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan – Suffolk (tracked)	AS-059	Change Request areas are included
7.5.9.1	Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan – Suffolk (clean)	APP-352	Change Request areas are included
7.5.9.1	Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan – Suffolk (tracked)	APP-352	Change Request areas are included
<b>Volume 9. Examination Submissions</b>			
9.7	Applicant's Schedule of Changes to the Draft Development Consent Order (clean)	AS-067	Change Request areas are included
9.7	Applicant's Schedule of Changes to the Draft	AS-067	Change Request areas are included



<b>Application Document Ref</b>	<b>Name of Document</b>	<b>Most Recent Planning Inspectorate Reference</b>	<b>Justification/Commentary</b>
	Development Consent Order (tracked)		
9.16	Lands Rights Tracker		Change Request areas are included
9.76.1	"Change Request Cover Letter"		Change Request areas are included
9.76.2	"Change Request Summary Report"		Change Request areas are included
9.76.3	"Change Request Consultation Report"		Change Request areas are included
9.76.4	"Change Request Schedule of Changes"		Change Request areas are included
9.76.5	"Change Request: Addendum to Volume 6 Environmental Statement"		Change Request areas are included
9.76.5.1	"Change Request: Saltmarsh Technical Note"		Change Request areas are included
9.76.5.2	Change Request Appendix B Geophysical Survey Report		Change Request areas are included
9.76.5.3	Change Request Appendix C Tree Constraints Plans Kent Onshore Scheme		Change Request areas are included
9.76.5.4	Change Request Appendix D Tree Protection Plans Kent Onshore Scheme		Change Request areas are included
9.76.5.5	Change Request Appendix E Updated Visualisations for Change 2		Change Request areas are included
9.76.5.6	Change Request Appendix F Change 3 Phase 1 Habitat Survey Results		Change Request areas are included
9.76.5.7	Change Request Appendix G Tree Survey Schedule Extract Suffolk Onshore Scheme		Change Request areas are included

<b>Application Document Ref</b>	<b>Name of Document</b>	<b>Most Recent Planning Inspectorate Reference</b>	<b>Justification/Commentary</b>
9.76.5.8	Change Request Appendix H Tree Constraints Plans Suffolk Onshore Scheme		Change Request areas are included
9.76.5.9	Change Request Appendix I Tree Protection Plans Suffolk Onshore Scheme		Change Request areas are included
9.76.5.10	Change Request Appendix J Change 4 Phase 1 Habitat Survey Results		Change Request areas are included
9.76.5.11	Change Request Appendix K Traffic Flow Diagrams		Change Request areas are included
9.76.5.12	Change Request Appendix L Tabulated Traffic Flows		Change Request areas are included
9.76.5.13	Change Request Appendix M Additional Assessment of Proposed Temporary Road Closure		Change Request areas are included

1.1.20 The Schedule of Changes see Schedule of Changes to DCO Application Documents as shown in **Application Document 9.76.4** submitted in the Change Request) included in the Change Request lists all documents and plans updated for the Change Request including their consequential revisions and reason for updating.

1.1.21 National Grid considers that subject to the ExA's agreement, the Change Request can be accommodated in the statutory timescale of the examination given. It should be noted that:

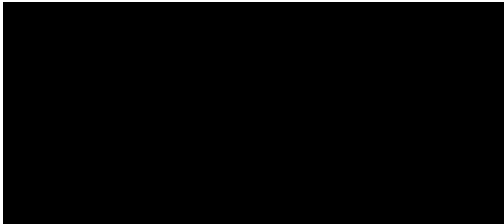
- the proposed changes, whether considered individually or taken together, would not be so substantial as to amount to a materially different project from that which was applied for;
- No new or different likely significant environmental effects to those reported in the Environmental Statement have been identified as a result of the proposed change (either alone or in-combination);

- All parties likely to be affected by, or who have an interest in, the proposed change, were consulted in advance of submission of the Change Request, and no new issues were identified by any consultees; and
- The submission of the Change Request at this stage provides sufficient time to review and examine any relevant concerns that may emerge relating to the proposed change.

1.1.22 We trust that the documents submitted in support of this Change Request provide a clear explanation and justification for the proposed changes to the submitted DCO Application Reference EN020026.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Senior Project Manager

For and on behalf of National Grid Electricity Transmission plc