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Lead Member of the Examining Authority  
Sea Link DCO  
The Planning Inspectorate  
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26 November 2025

By email to [southeastanglialink@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:southeastanglialink@planninginspectorate.gov.uk) and by file transfer

Dear Ms Holmes,

**Planning Act 2008 (as amended)**

**Application by National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc (National Grid) for an Order granting Development Consent for Sea Link**

**Deadline 1A and Change Request Covering Letter**

This cover letter has been prepared by National Grid (the Applicant) to accompany the Applicant's submissions to the Examining Authority (ExA) at Deadline 1A (26 November 2025) of the Examination of the proposed Sea Link Development Consent Order.

These submissions are made in accordance with the Examination Timetable set out at **Annex A** of the **Rule 8** Letter dated **10 November 2025 [PD-013]**. This Covering Letter deals with the Applicant's submissions at Deadline 1A.

At Deadline 1A the Applicant is also submitting, under separate cover letter, a formal **Change Request**. The Applicant gave notice to the Examining Authority (ExA) on 16 September 2025 of its intention to submit a request for proposed changes to the above application. The ExA responded in their Rule 9 Letter to strongly encourage the submission of all proposed changes (and all supporting material) no later than the currently proposed deadline 1A (Wednesday 26 November 2025). A separate Covering Letter setting out details of the Change Application and identifying the accompanying documents is submitted under **Application Document 9.76.1 Change Request Cover Letter**.

**Overview of Deadline 1A Submissions**

The table below lists the documents submitted by the Applicant at Deadline 1A.

Doc Ref	Document Title	Rev	Reason for Submission
<b>Volume 4</b>			
4.3 (C)	Book of Reference (Tracked Changes)	C	This was omitted from Deadline 1 submission.
<b>Volume 6</b>			
6.2.1.4 (D)	Part 1 Introduction Chapter 4 Description of the Proposed Project (Clean and Tracked)	D	Updates provide minor clarifications.
6.2.2.10 (B)	Part 2 Suffolk Chapter 10 Socio-Economics, Recreation and Tourism (Clean and Tracked)	B	Updates to accommodation facilities inventory stock calculation. No resulting change to assessment of effects or conclusions.
6.2.3.10 (B)	Part 3 Kent Chapter 10 Socio-Economics Recreation and Tourism (Clean and Tracked)	B	Updates to community and accommodation facilities inventory. No resulting change to assessment of effects or conclusions.
6.2.4.8 (B)	Part 4 Marine Chapter 8 Commercial Fisheries (Clean and Tracked)	B	Updates in response to ISH1 Supplementary Agenda Additional Questions and <b>Supplementary agenda additional questions for Issue Specific Hearing 1 [EV3-002]</b> .
6.2.4.11 (B)	Part 4 Marine Chapter 11 Inter-Project Cumulative Effects (Clean and Tracked)	B	Update in response to Action Point 11 (AP11) in <b>Action Points from Issue Specific Hearing 1 (ISH1) [EV3-007]</b> .
6.2.5.3 (B)	Part 5 Combined Chapter 3 Summary of Likely Significant Effects (Clean and Tracked)	B	Updates in response to <b>Supplementary agenda additional questions for Issue Specific Hearing [EV3-002]</b> .
6.3.3.2.B (C)	ES Appendix 3.2.B Wintering Bird Survey Report 2022-2023 (Clean and Tracked)	C	Updates in response to <b>Supplementary agenda additional questions for Issue Specific Hearing 1 [EV3-002]</b> .
6.3.3.2.C (B)	ES Appendix 3.2.C Wintering Bird Survey Report 2023-2024 (Clean and Tracked)	B	

Doc Ref	Document Title	Rev	Reason for Submission
6.3.3.2.D (B)	ES Appendix 3.2.D Breeding Bird Survey Report 2023 (Clean and Tracked)	B	
6.3.3.2.E (B)	ES Appendix 3.2.E Breeding Bird Survey Report 2024 (Clean and Tracked)	B	
6.3.3.2.F (B)	ES Appendix 3.2.F Vantage Point Survey Report (Clean and Tracked)	B	
6.12 (C)	Biodiversity Net Gain Feasibility Report (Clean and Tracked)	C	Updates in response to ExA <b>Supplementary agenda additional questions for Issue Specific Hearing [EV3-002]</b> and Interested Party feedback.
<b>Volume 7</b>			
7.11.1 (B)	Design Approach Document – Suffolk (Clean and Tracked)	B	Updates to reflect ongoing discussions between the Applicant and East Suffolk Council and Suffolk County Council with regard to River Fromus bridge design.
7.11.2 (B)	Design Approach Document – Kent (Clean and Tracked)	B	Updates to show indicative land raising and differentiation between existing and proposed ground levels, and update colour for visuals.
<b>Volume 9</b>			
9.37	Applicant's Responses to Supplementary Agenda Additional Written Questions	A	Response to <b>Supplementary agenda additional questions for Issue Specific Hearing 1 [EV3-002]</b> .
9.38.2	Deadline 1A Cover Letter	A	This document.
9.68	Applicant's Written Summaries of Oral Submissions to Preliminary Meeting	A	Written Summary of Oral Submissions made by the Applicant at the Preliminary Meeting held on 5 November 2025.

Doc Ref	Document Title	Rev	Reason for Submission
9.70	Applicant's Written Summaries of Oral Submissions to Issue Specific Hearing 1	A	Written Summary of Oral Submissions made by the Applicant at the Issue Specific Hearing held on 11 November 2025.
9.72.2	Applicant's Response to Issue Specific Hearing 1 (ISH1) Action Points - Deadline 1A	A	Response to <b>Action Points from Issue Specific Hearing 1 (ISH1) [EV3-007]</b> due at Deadline 1A.
9.74	Shipping and Navigation Under-Keel Clearance Marine Engineering Technical Note	A	To support response to ISH1 Supplementary Agenda Additional Questions in <b>Supplementary agenda additional questions for Issue Specific Hearing 1 [EV3-002]</b> .
9.76.1	Change Application Cover Letter	A	Cover Letter for Change Application.
9.77 (B)	Application and Examination Document Tracker	B	Updated to reflect the Deadline 1A submission.
9.78	Sea Link Biodiversity Metric	A	Update to the habitat classification in areas located to the south of the River Stour to reflect feedback from the ExA and SEAS and in response to ISH1 Supplementary Agenda Additional Questions in <b>Supplementary agenda additional questions for Issue Specific Hearing 1 [EV3-002]</b> .

All updated documents are labelled as Revision (B), Revision (C) etc as applicable, and supersede the documents previously submitted by the Applicant.

Each of these updated documents includes a Version History table which outlines the amendments that have been made by the Applicant since the previous version was submitted.

Where applicable, these documents are provided in clean and tracked versions as requested in the Rule 6 Letter **[PD-010]**. The Application and Examination Document Tracker (**Application Document 9.77 (B)**) has been updated to reflect the above submissions.

## Change Request Plans

For ease of reference the list of Change Request documents is reproduced below as well.

<b>Application Document Ref</b>	<b>Name of Document</b>	<b>Most Recent Planning Inspectorate Reference</b>	<b>Justification/Commentary</b>
Volume 2. Plans and Drawings			
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	APP-027	Change Request areas are included

	Nature Conservation Geological and Landscape Importance - Kent		
2.8.3	Statutory and Non Statutory Sites of Nature Conservation Geological and Landscape Importance - Offshore	APP-028	Change Request areas are included
2.9	Habitats of Protected Species and Important Habitats	APP-029	Change Request areas are included
2.9	Habitats of Protected Species and Important Habitats - Kent	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
Volume 3. Development Consent Order			
3.1	draft Development Consent Order (Clean and Tracked)	AS-087	Change Request areas are included
3.2	Explanatory Memorandum (Clean and Tracked)	AS-089	Change Request areas are included
Volume 4. Compulsory Acquisition Information			
4.1	Funding Statement (Clean and Tracked)	APP-011	Change Request areas are included
4.2	Statement of Reasons (Clean and 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
4.2.2	SoR Appendix B Schedule of Negotiations with Land Interests (Clean and Tracked)	PDA-011	Change Request areas are included

4.2.3	SoR Appendix C Special Category Land Report (Clean and Tracked)	PDA-013	Change Request areas are included
4.3	Supplementary Book of Reference	PDA-015	Supplementary referencing detail for new and amended plots. Note this is a supplement rather than a full update in line with Compulsory Acquisition Regulations, Regulation 5.
Volume 7. Other Documents			
7.5.1.1	Outline Construction Traffic Management and Travel Plan – Suffolk (Clean and Tracked)	AS-008	Change Request areas are included
7.5.3.2	CEMP Appendix B Register of Environmental Actions and Commitments (REAC) (Clean and 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 (Clean and Tracked)	AS-059	Change Request areas are included
7.5.9.1	Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan – Suffolk (Clean and Tracked)	APP-352	Change Request areas are included
Volume 9. Examination Submissions			
9.7	Applicant's Schedule of Changes to the Draft Development	AS-067	Change Request areas are included



	Consent Order (Clean and 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 Application Appendix C Tree Constraints Plans Kent Onshore Scheme		Change Request areas are included
9.76.5.4	Change Application Appendix D Tree Protection Plans Kent Onshore Scheme		Change Request areas are included
9.76.5.5	Change Application 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
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

### Updated Book of Reference and Land Plans

The Applicant notes the Guidance on Changes to Development Consent Orders, and associated Regulation 5 of the Compulsory Acquisition Regulations 2010, which sets out what must be included in a change application where compulsory acquisition powers are being sought in respect of additional land. The Applicant therefore is submitting:

- a supplement to the Book of Reference;

- Land Plans identifying the additional land and the land affected by the proposed provision of additional compulsory acquisition;
- Composite Land Plans, showing the requested changes as part of a full book of Land Plans;
- An updated Statement of Reasons setting out why the additional land is required;
- a statement indicating how it is proposed to fund acquisition of the additional land (updated Funding Statement).

In the case of the Sea Link change request, extracts of plans have been prepared such that only the relevant pages where changes are shown have been included. Additionally, a full book of merged Land Plans have also been produced and submitted showing the full extent of the Order Limits should the changes be accepted.

The Book of Reference and Land Rights Tracker have been created as supplemental versions to reflect updated land plots. If the Change Request is accepted, then these changes can be merged into the application documents.

In addition, The Funding Statement and Statement of Reasons, with appendices, have all been updated to reflect the proposed changes.

The change 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.

## **Applicant's Written Response to Open Floor Hearing 1 and 2**

During the Open Floor Hearings, the ExA requested the Applicant provide a detailed written response to matters raised by Interested Parties during the Open Floor Hearings.

The Applicant is conscious that some Interested Parties were unable to complete their full representations during the Open Floor Hearings and that those Parties who were unable to complete their representation during the hearings were asked to submit a written summary of their oral submission at Deadline 1A.

In order to give full consideration to the matters raised by those Parties, including those completed and submitted in writing at Deadline 1A due to time constraints during the hearings, the Applicant will submit the Applicant's Written Response to Open Floor Hearings 1 and 2, at Deadline 2.

This will enable the Applicant to take into account the written summaries of oral submissions submitted at Deadline 1A, including those submissions which were not completed at the hearings. The Applicant trusts that this approach will assist both the ExA and the Parties making representations.

## Satellite Hearings

At the Preliminary Meeting the ExA requested the Applicant to set up satellite events during the hearings proposed for January 2026, where Interested Parties who cannot access a central location nor participate virtually on their own, can participate.

In doing so the ExA made specific reference to the arrangements to the Mona Offshore Wind Farm Examination.

The Applicant has researched the Mona Offshore Wind Farm and understand the satellite arrangements on this project were limited and materially different to those requested for Sea Link. The Applicant understands that the reason for the request to set up satellite venues for Mona was to allow Interested Parties who did not have access to Microsoft Teams to make representations. The arrangements comprised a single screen, microphone and camera and were not attended by the Applicant. It is also noted that Mona Wind Farm had 90 Relevant Representations compared to over 6,000 for Sea Link; and an Open Floor Hearing that lasted for 39 minutes as there were only three speakers. The Mona Wind Farm is therefore not comparable in terms of the scale of hearings and number of likely attendees.

The Applicant is in further dialogue with the Planning Inspectorate regarding the possibility of satellite hearings and the surrounding logistics. The Applicant is prepared to make the necessary arrangements for satellite venues in Kent and Suffolk should the ExA make a procedural decision to do so. The Applicant believes that the Inspectorate would, however, need to provide Planning Inspectorate representatives at each location to manage the hearings at a local level. This is because the Applicant is not a neutral party and it would not be correct process for the Applicant to manage speakers at a venue distant from the Examining Authority; nor would it be appropriate for the Applicant to welcome people to the hearings and manage the venue on the day.

The Applicant would therefore not have any project representatives at the satellite venues, as the project team would all need to be present at the central location to ensure the effective delivery of the hearings.

## Conclusion

Should the ExA have any queries in relation to this letter, they are invited to contact me, [REDACTED]@nationalgrid.com) in the first instance.

[REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,



Senior Project Manager

For and on behalf of National Grid Electricity Transmission