



# Planning Inspectorate

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All Interested Parties and Category 3  
Parties

Your Ref:

Our Ref: EN020026

Date: 17 December 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

## Planning Act 2008 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 – rule 13

### Application by National Grid Electricity Transmission Limited for an order granting development consent for the Sea Link project

#### Notification of hearings

The examination timetable at annex A of the ExA's letter [\[PD-015\]](#), dated 5 December 2025, included reserved dates for hearings.

We are now writing to advise you that the following hearings will be held under sections 91 and 92 of the Planning Act 2008. The hearing(s) will be blended events, with participants attending either in person or virtually via Microsoft Teams.

Hearing	Date	Start time	Location
<b>Compulsory acquisition hearing 1 (CAH1)</b>	<b>Tuesday 27 January 2026</b>	<b>Registration and seating available from: 9.30am</b>  <b>Virtual registration process from: 9.30am</b>  <b>Event start: 10.00am</b>	All hearings will be blended events at:  <b>South Gallery Rooms 20-22 Excel London 1 Western Gateway Royal Victoria Dock London E16 1XL</b>  and  <b>By virtual means using Microsoft Teams OR at one of</b>

			<p>the satellite venues hosted by the applicant:</p> <p>Suffolk:</p> <p>Deben Suite Ufford Park Yarmouth Road Melton Woodbridge IP12 1QW</p> <p>Kent:</p> <p>Raleigh Suite Discovery Park Gateway Building Innovation Way Ramgate Road Sandwich CT13 9FF</p> <p>Full instructions on how to join online or by telephone will be provided in advance to those who have pre-registered.</p>
<p><b>Issue specific hearing 2 (ISH2)</b></p> <p><b>On environmental matters</b>, including but not limited to, ecology and biodiversity, ornithology, noise and vibration, marine physical environment, landscape and visual, design, shipping and navigation, traffic and transport, public rights of way, heritage, socio-economics and tourism, cumulative effects, water environment, climate</p>	<p><b>Wednesday 28 January 2026</b></p> <p>and</p> <p><b>Thursday 29 January 2026</b></p> <p>and</p> <p><b>Friday 30 January 2026</b></p>	<p><b>Registration and seating available from: 9.30am</b></p> <p><b>Virtual registration process from: 9.30am</b></p> <p><b>Event start: 10.00am</b></p>	<p>All hearings will be blended events at:</p> <p><b>South Gallery Rooms 20-22 Excel London 1 Western Gateway Royal Victoria Dock London E16 1XL</b></p> <p>and</p> <p><b>By virtual means using Microsoft Teams OR</b> at one of the satellite venues hosted by the applicant:</p>

change and the draft Development Consent Order			<p><b>Suffolk:</b></p> <p>Deben Suite Ufford Park Yarmouth Road Melton Woodbridge IP12 1QW</p> <p><b>Kent:</b></p> <p>Raleigh Suite Discovery Park Gateway Building Innovation Way Ramgate Road Sandwich CT13 9FF</p> <p>Full instructions on how to join online or by telephone will be provided in advance to those who have pre-registered.</p>
<p><b>NOTE:</b> If any of the above hearings are no longer required then notification will be published as soon as practicable on the project webpage of the National Infrastructure Planning website, providing reasonable notice to interested parties of the decision to cancel.</p>			

### Applicant's notification duties

The applicant is reminded of its duty to notify and publicise hearings under rule 13(6) and 13(7) of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010.

### Purpose of hearings

Please refer to The Planning Inspectorate's Advice for members of the public: [The stages of the NSIP process and how you can have your say](#) for information about the purpose of open floor, issue specific and compulsory acquisition hearings.

### Satellite venues at Suffolk and Kent

As set out in its letters of 10 November 2025 (Rule 8 letter) [\[PD-013\]](#) and 28 November 2025 [\[PD-014\]](#), the ExA has instructed the applicant to provide satellite venues for January

hearings in order to provide a location for interested parties in the local areas to participate virtually.

The applicant has provided details of satellite venues and interested parties can now register to participate or observe at either of these locations if they are not able to attend in-person at the Excel London or join virtually from home. The addresses for these locations are included in the table above.

If you will be attending either of the satellite venues, please note that these will be hosted by a third party (CVS International), and neither the applicant nor the Planning Inspectorate will be present in-person (although they will be present at the Excel London).

CVS International will be present throughout to assist interested parties in participating in the hearings. They will not be able to assist with any questions concerning the details of the Sea Link project, or the examination process.

For any queries concerning the proposed development, please contact the Sea Link team for the applicant: [contact@sealink.nationalgrid.com](mailto:contact@sealink.nationalgrid.com)

For any queries concerning the examination process, please contact the Planning Inspectorate Sea Link Case Team at the contact details provided at the top of this letter.

### **Registration and requests to participate in hearings**

**Please register using the [event participation form](#) by Friday 9 January 2026 if you intend to participate in the hearings. Please provide all the information requested below. If you have any difficulty completing the form please contact the case team at the details above.**

Please note that by attending the event either in person or online you are agreeing to be filmed for the purposes of the online live stream of the event and the recording of the event which will get published on the project webpage.

A limited number of seats will be available for observers who do not wish to be filmed at the event. Please contact the case team at the contact details above to notify them if you prefer not to be filmed at the event. A transcript of the event will also be published on the project webpage after the event.

Any request to participate in a hearing should include the following information:

- Your name and unique reference number (found at the top of any letter or email from The Planning Inspectorate).
- Email address (if available) and contact telephone number.
- Name and unique reference number of any person/organisation that you are representing (if applicable).
- Confirmation of whether you will participate virtually or in-person, or if you will be attending one of the satellite venues hosted by the applicant (see details above).
- Confirmation of the hearing(s) you wish to participate in and brief details of the topic(s) that you would like to raise.
- For compulsory acquisition hearings, the plot number(s) of the relevant land provided in the book of reference and the land plans.

- The examination library reference number (with paragraph/page number where appropriate) of any documents you wish to refer to.

Joining instructions for hearings will be issued by the case team via email shortly before the hearing dates.

**Please contact the case team if you require any support or assistance to attend any hearing, either virtually or in person.**

If you simply wish to observe any of the hearings then you can either:

1. Watch a livestream of the event - a link to the livestream will be made available on the project webpage shortly before the event is scheduled to begin.
2. Or watch the recording of the event which will be published on the project webpage shortly after the event has finished.

**Please note that you do not need to complete the registration form if you will be observing the hearings on the live stream.**

Alternatively, you can attend in person at one of the venues to observe the proceedings (the Excel London, Ufford Park in Suffolk or Discovery Park in Kent); however, to ensure there is adequate seating capacity at the venue we request that you register your attendance to observe only by **Friday 9 January 2026** using the **event participation form**. Please note that it may not be possible to participate on the day if you have not registered your wish to speak by **Friday 9 January 2026**.

## **Attendees**

We would find it helpful if the following parties could attend:

Compulsory acquisition hearing 1:

- The applicant.
- Suffolk Country Council.
- Kent County Council.
- East Suffolk Council.
- Thanet District Council.
- Statutory undertakers with outstanding concerns regarding protective provisions.
- Affected persons who requested to be heard and any other affected persons with outstanding objections to the acquisition of their land.

Issue specific hearing 2:

- The applicant
- Suffolk County Council
- Kent County Council
- East Suffolk Council
- Thanet District Council
- Dover District Council
- Suffolk Energy Action Solutions (SEAS)
- International Union for the Conservation of Nature

- Kent Wildlife Trust
- The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
- Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)
- National Grid Ventures
- Environment Agency
- Natural England
- Marine Management Organisation
- Historic England
- Maritime and Coastguard Agency
- London Gateway Port Ltd
- Harwich Haven Authority
- Port of London Authority
- Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths National Landscape Partnership
- Any other public authority, body or organisation or an IP affected by the proposed development.

## Hearing agendas

The agendas and any detailed arrangements for the hearings will be published on the project webpage at least five working days before the hearings. However, the actual agenda on the day of each hearing may be subject to change at our discretion.

## Procedure at hearings and post hearing submissions

The procedure to be followed at hearings is set out in The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010.

Participation in a hearing will be subject to the ExA's powers of control. It is for the ExA to determine how the hearing will be conducted, including the time allowed at the hearing for the making of a person's representations. The hearing will be managed in the interests of ensuring fair access to the hearing for all parties, and to ensure that the submissions of all invited persons are fully heard within the allotted time. For issue specific hearings interested parties (IPs) may be invited to make oral representations at the hearing on the specific issues being examined at the hearing as set out in the agenda.

All hearings are recorded. The recordings and transcripts will be made available on the project webpage as soon as practicable following the hearing. The recordings allow any member of the public who is interested in the application and the examination to find out what has been discussed at a hearing. It is therefore important to note that anyone speaking at the hearing will need to introduce themselves, including any organisation or groups that they represent, **each time they speak** to ensure that someone listening to the recording after the hearing is clear who was speaking.

As the recordings are retained and published, they form a public record that can contain personal information to which the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) applies. Please refer to our '[Privacy Notice](#)' for further information. Participants must do their best to avoid making public any information which they would otherwise wish to be kept private and confidential. If there is a need to refer to such information, it should be in written form. Although this will also be published, personal and private content can be redacted or removed before it is made publicly available. Any person who is unclear on this point

should ask the case team for guidance before they place personal and private information into the public domain. The Planning Inspectorate's practice is to publish the recordings and transcripts and retain them for a period of five years from the Secretary of State's decision on the development consent order (DCO). If you actively participate in the hearing, it is important that you understand that you will be recorded and that the recording and transcript will be made available in the public domain.

The evidence presented orally at hearings should be included in post hearing submissions and submitted at the relevant deadline in the examination timetable.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact the case team at [southeastanglialink@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:southeastanglialink@planninginspectorate.gov.uk), on 0303 444 5000 or at the postal address at the top of this letter.

Yours faithfully

*Sarah Holmes*

**Lead Member of the Examining Authority**

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

<https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/>

