

NATIONAL GRID ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION PLC

NATIONAL GRID (SEA LINK) ORDER

SECTIONS 91, 93 & 94 PLANNING ACT 2008 (AS AMENDED) ("THE 2008 ACT")

RULE 13 (6) OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (EXAMINATION PROCEDURE) RULES 2010

NOTICE OF HEARINGS

PLANNING INSPECTORATE REFERENCE EN020026

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, at the dates, times and locations set out below, a compulsory acquisition hearing and issue specific hearing will be held by the Examining Authority (appointed by the Secretary of State) for the examination of the application for development consent made by National Grid Electricity Transmission PLC ("the Applicant") for the National Grid (Sea Link) Order ("the Application").

Summary of the Project

On 4 March 2022, the Applicant submitted a request for a direction, pursuant to Section 35 of the Planning Act 2008, to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) (now known as the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero) for the Project to be treated as development for which development consent is required. A direction was issued on 31 March 2022 confirming the Sea Link project (the "Project") can be treated as such in accordance with Section 35(1) of the Planning Act 2008. Development consent is therefore required for the Project and it is for this reason that the Project falls within the remit of the Secretary of State's decision-making powers.

The DCO for the 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 Frome) 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.

The Project also includes modifications to sections of existing overhead lines in Suffolk (only if Friston Substation is not built pursuant to another extant 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 and other ancillary operations.

The DCO would also make provision for Associated Development for the construction and maintenance of the Project, including the diversion of utilities and public rights of way, provision for access, landscape works and environmental mitigation.

The DCO would authorise the compulsory acquisition of land, interests in land and rights over land, and the powers to use land permanently and temporarily for the construction, operation and maintenance of the Project. The DCO would also authorise the construction of temporary and permanent accesses to the Project, the temporary stopping up or diversion of public rights of way, street works, and highway works and the application and disapplication of certain legislation.

The application was accepted for examination on 23 April 2025.

Hearings

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN in accordance with Sections 91, 93 and 94 of the Planning Act 2008 and Rule 13(6) of the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 that hearings are due to be held by the Examining Authority for the Examination of the Application at the dates and times set out in the table below:

Hearing dates and locations

Date/Time	Hearing	Location
Tuesday 27 January 2026 Virtual registration process begins at: 09:30 Registration and seating at venue open from: 09:30 Hearing starts: 10:00	Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 1 (CAH1)	South Gallery Rooms 20-22, Excel London, 1 Western Gateway, Royal Victoria Dock, London E16 1XL and virtually by Microsoft Teams or at one of the satellite venues at: Suffolk: Deben Suite, Ufford Park, Yarmouth Road, Melton, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP12 1QW Kent: Raleigh Suite, Discovery Park Gateway Building, Innovation Way, Sandwich, Kent CT13 9FF
Wednesday 28 January Virtual registration process begins at: 09:30 Registration and seating at venue open from: 09:30 Hearing starts: 10:00	Issue Specific Hearing 2 (ISH2)	South Gallery Rooms 20-22, Excel London, 1 Western Gateway, Royal Victoria Dock, London E16 1XL
Thursday 29 January Virtual registration process begins at: 09:30 Registration and seating at venue open from: 09:30 Hearing starts: 10:00	Continuation of Issue Specific Hearing 2 (ISH2)	and virtually by Microsoft Teams or at one of the satellite venues at: Suffolk: Deben Suite, Ufford Park, Yarmouth Road, Melton, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP12 1QW
Friday 30 January Virtual registration process begins at: 09:30 Registration and seating at venue open from: 09:30 Hearing starts: 10:00	Continuation of Issue Specific Hearing 2 (ISH2)	Kent: Raleigh Suite, Discovery Park Gateway Building, Innovation Way, Sandwich, Kent CT13 9FF

Blended Hearings

Both the compulsory acquisition hearing and issue specific hearing will be “blended hearings”, which means that interested persons have the option to attend and participate in person or virtually through Microsoft Teams.

Those wishing to participate virtually or in person will need to register in advance with the Planning Inspectorate. If you wish to attend in person and observe you will still need to register in advance with the Planning Inspectorate. A virtual option to observe will also be available through the Planning Inspectorate website for members of the public.

Those attending virtually will need to enter the virtual lobby 30 minutes before the scheduled time for the hearing to start to register. Full instructions on how to join online or by telephone will be provided in advance to those who have pre-registered.

Satellite Venues

The Examining Authority has instructed the Applicant to provide satellite venues local to the proposed project to allow interested parties to participate or observe the hearings if they are not able to attend in-person or join virtually from home. The satellite venues will be hosted by a third party (CVS International) to help attending interested parties to participate in the hearings. The addresses for each venue are as follows:

Suffolk

Deben Suite, Ufford Park, Yarmouth Road, Melton, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP12 1QW

Kent

Raleigh Suite, Discovery Park Gateway Building, Innovation Way, Sandwich, Kent CT13 9FF

Those wishing to participate through the satellite venues will need to register in advance with the Planning Inspectorate. If you wish to attend in person and observe through the satellite venues, you will still need to register in advance with the Planning Inspectorate. The Planning Inspectorate can be contacted by telephone on 0303 444 5000 or by email at southeastanglia@planninginspectorate.gov.uk.

Copies of the Application

The Application can be viewed on the National Grid (Sea Link) page of the Planning Inspectorate's National Infrastructure Planning website under the Documents tab:
<https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN020026>

A map showing the location of the Project can be viewed online on the same website in the Application Document 2.2 Location Plans [APP-018].

The Application can also be viewed electronically, at the locations listed in the table below. Please note that you will need to bring a form of identification and register as a library member in order to use a computer at these locations:

Location	Opening Times
Saxmundham Library Block B, Street Farm Rd, Saxmundham IP17 1AL	Mon: Closed Tue: 09:30 – 17:30 Wed: 09:30 – 17:30 Thu: Closed Fri: 09:30 – 17:30 Sat: 10:00 – 13:00 Sun: 10:00 – 15:00
Aldeburgh Library Victoria Rd, Aldeburgh IP15 5EG	Mon: 09:00 – 13:00 Tue: 09:00 – 13:00 Wed: 09:00 – 18:00 Thu: 09:00 – 13:00 Fri: 09:00 – 13:00 Sat: 10:00 – 15:00 Sun: 10:00 – 13:00
Minster Library 4a Monkton Rd, Minster, Ramsgate CT12 4EA	Mon: 13:00 – 17:00 Tue: 09:30 – 13:30 Wed: Closed Thu: 12:00 – 17:00 Fri: 10:00 – 16:00 Sat: 09:30 – 13:30 Sun: Closed
Newington Library Royal Harbour Academy, Stirling Way, Ramsgate CT12 6FA	Mon: 09:00 – 13:00 and 14:00 – 17:30 Tue: 09:00 – 13:00 Wed: Closed Thu: 09:00 – 13:00 and 14:00 – 17:30 Fri: Closed Sat: 09:00 – 13:00 Sun: Closed

*Please contact the venues in advance to confirm opening hours, any restrictions that may be in place and, if necessary, to arrange an appointment for computer access to view the documents electronically. The details of the opening hours above are correct at the time of this notice.