



Dover District Council
Planning
White Cliffs Business Park
Dover
Kent CT16 3PJ

Website: www.dover.gov.uk

Date: 9th January 2026

Dear Inspectors,

Response to Examination Questions ExQ1 (Issued 17th December 2025)

PINS Ref: EN020026 – Sea Link

Application by National Grid Electricity Transmission for an Order Granting Development Consent for Sea Link

Please find enclosed Dover District Council's responses to the Inspector Examination Questions ExQ1.

Response to Examination Questions:

Ref: 1.GEN1. – Dover District Council (DDC) has not used artificial intelligence to create or alter any part of its documents, information or data.

1GEN14. – This question appears to be for the applicant to respond to however DDC welcomes the clarity the answers to this question will bring regarding which Local Planning Authorities will be responsible for discharging requirements.

1GEN26. – DDC does not use CIL.

1GEN28. – The Council consider the intended definition of the wording is unclear and suggest the 35 day decision period is specifically referred to, with provision made to allow mutual agreement to extend this period where matters require resolution.

1GEN29. - The Council has no comment on this but would support the use of consistent language throughout to provide clarity.

1GEN47. – DDC would support any additional wording being added to the draft DCO which requires the development to be carried out in accordance with the details submitted to the relevant authority, and to require the submission and enable the approval of the layout, scale and design of the substations and new Pylons in Kent, with consultation with the neighbouring local authority. Consultation is suggested due to the scale of the development and structures and to allow the consideration of the wider landscape and visual impact. DDC consider that the design should include the colour finish of any structures, as this could affect the visual impact of the development and there would be an expectation that, for example, the substation and converter stations would be

finished in similar external materials, unless a rationale for a different design approach is submitted to explain the final design approach.

1GEN70. – DDC is not aware of any reasonable alternatives and has no comments on this.

1LVIA1. –The landscape vision for the Kent element of the development is mainly focussed within Thanet District and along the River Stour (with the exception of the Golden Plover and Skylark Habitat Enhancement Area). Illustrative cross sections have been provided in Appendix A of Document 7.5.7.2, however these do not include any indicative wireframe massing of the Minster Converter Station and Substation (as a worst case scenario in line with the Rochdale Envelope approach). It is therefore difficult to appreciate the scale of the native woodland and planting (at year 15), relative to the development proposed and what effect this would have on minimising the wider landscape and visual impact of the development, particularly given the range of design options that could be proposed based on the Converter Station Design Principles document. The Council would support suggestions provided by Suffolk County Council and other Authorities responding to this question who have been involved in recent DCO's for similar development and have experience of how this can best be achieved.

1ECOL5. – The Council does not have expertise to advise on measures for rectifying the saltmarsh impacted by Nemo Link, however would welcome exploration of the potential for remediating the impacts as part of the off-site BNG to be delivered through Sea Link.

1ECOL17. – Deterioration, which could potentially lead to loss that could take several years, of irreplaceable habitats should only be a last resort and the avoidance of impacts, as sought by the ExA, should be first addressed.

1CH11. – The Council would welcome the suggestion that Historic England are consulted on the converter station design. The Council understands the ExA has suggested the dDCO includes detail on which authorities will be responsible for the discharge of specific requirements and if, in relation to the converter station, this responsibility falls entirely to Thanet District Council, DDC would request that DDC is also consulted alongside Historic England given the scale of the proposal and wider landscape views from within the Dover District.

1AQ6. – The Council is satisfied with the applicant's proposal in this respect.

1AQ8. – The Council has no comments on the proposed air quality monitoring equipment or locations set out in the document.

1NV8. – The Council is satisfied the s61 process would be followed and has no further comments.

1NV9. – The Council is satisfied with this approach.

1NV11. – The Council has no comments on the amended assessment submitted.

1SERT2. – The Council does not have expertise to advise on this matter.

1SERT7. – The Council would support any requirement from the ExA for the Applicant to submit an employment and skills plan, however the Council does not have expertise to advise if this would be of practical benefit over and above the commitments already made by the Applicant.

1PE2. – The Council does not have expertise to advise on any residual adverse effects from previous cable installation works beyond those identified in RR's previously highlighted.

I hope these responses adequately identify DDC's current position in respect of these matters and assist the Examination accordingly.

Yours sincerely

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Principal Planning Officer

Development Management