

Your reference EN020026

Our reference [REDACTED] 3

9 January 2026

National Infrastructure Planning  
Temple Quay House  
2 The Square  
Bristol  
BS1 6PN

Dear Sirs

**DCO Scheme: National Grid (Sea Link) Order**  
**Our client: Network Rail Infrastructure Limited**

**Subject: Response to Examiners Question dated 17 December 2025**  
**Deadline: 3**

This Firm is instructed by Network Rail Infrastructure Limited (**NR**) in relation to the application by National Grid Electricity Limited (**Applicant**) in connection with the DCO Scheme.

**Q to Network Rail – 1TT3. Would the railway line under the bridge need to be closed if there were works being undertaken to fix current deficiencies of Benhall railway bridge by the applicant; and if so, what impacts would this have?**

Following a review by our asset protection team, they are of the view that such a closure of the railway line beneath may be necessary.

Any such closure would be essential to ensure safe access for investigations of the bridge, installation of a mini-bridge (if it oversails the railway) and any required bridge strengthening works. Further, any activities within 10 meters of the NR boundary fence and over the railway corridor would necessitate possession of the railway lines, thus leading to their closure during the works. These closures would pose a clear detriment to safe and efficient running of the railway, as well as potential service impacts.

Furthermore, NR would require the applicant to enter into a Basic Asset Protection Agreement (**BAPA**) with NR's Asset Protection team in order to facilitate the necessary works and possession requirements.

Finally, NR's consent to any and all such works on this bridge would be necessary before proceeding, to ensure sufficient controls to preserve the safety of the railway.

We reserve the right to make further representations concerning this matter, including in respect of the Applicant's proposed changes. However, we have noted that there is a potential encroachment onto NR land present in one of the provided maps, which we will review further.

Should you have any further questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully

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**Addleshaw Goddard LLP**



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