



THE PLANNING ACT 2008

THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (EXAMINATION PROCEDURE) RULES
2010

Sea Link Energy Cable

Appendix C3A to the Natural England Deadline 3A Submission

Natural England's Additional Comments on the Updated DCO documents

For:

The construction and operation of the Sea Link Energy Cable.

Planning Inspectorate Reference EN020026

19 January 2026

Appendix C3A Sea Link Deadline 3a Development Consent Order

In formulating these comments, the following documents have been considered:

Sea Link Pre-Deadline 1 Submission Documents

- AS-067 9.7 Applicant's Schedule of Changes to the DCO
- AS-044 3.1 (C) draft Development Consent Order

Sea Link Deadline 1 Submission Documents

- REP1-107 9.7 (C) Applicant's Schedule of Changes to the DCO
- REP1-037 3.1 (E) draft Development Consent Order Sea Link Deadline 1a
Submission Documents
- CR1-051 9.7 (C) (Version 2, Change Request) Schedule of Changes Version 2 –
change Request Version
- CR1-028 3.1 (E) (Version 2, Change Request) draft Development Consent Order

Detailed Comments

Table 1: Natural England's advice on the Development Consent Order

Key considerations	NE Ref	Comment
Document Reviewed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schedule of Changes Version 2 – change Request Version 		
	C1	<p>Table 3.1 Page 21 point 1. The changes here to include a definition of offshore commence are appreciated. However, Natural England notes that pre commencement activities are excluded from the definition of commence. However, offshore preparation works definition states:</p> <p>“Offshore preparation works” means surveying and monitoring activities seaward of MHWS undertaken prior to the commencement of construction to prepare for construction, including pre-lay grapnel run”</p> <p>Natural England queries if this means that pre lay grapnel runs are included within the definition of offshore preparation works or if this was intended to indicate they were specifically excluded. We currently interpret it as included within the definition and would raise concerns on this as pre lay grapnel runs can be significantly damaging works and should be captured within the definition of “commence” to ensure appropriate mitigation is in place prior to these works commencing.</p>
	C2	Table 3.1 Page 23 Point 5. Natural England notes and welcomes the changes to the Arbitration provision and consider that this resolves the concerns we had previously raised with this Article.
	C6	Table 3.1 Page 27 Point 12. Natural England notes and accepts the split of plans between the onshore and offshore requirements. However, we note that the relevant SNCB is not named as consultee on these documents.

