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Date: 10<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Dear Inspectors,

**Response to Supplementary agenda additional questions – Issue Specific Hearing 2 (ISH2) (Issued 16<sup>th</sup> January 2026)**

**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 supplementary agenda additional questions relating to ISH2.

Response to questions:

**ISH2.01.** - The Government's Planning and Infrastructure Act received Royal Assent on Thursday 18 December 2025. The applicant, local authorities and all IPs are invited to submit comments on the new Act in relation to any implications for the examination of this application  
The Council has no comments on the Act in relation to the proposal being examined.

**ISH2.02.** - The following National Policy Statements (NPS) were designated on 6 January 2026: EN-1, EN-3, EN-5. Considering paragraph 1.6.3 of EN-1 (2026) whilst the revised NPS's will only have effect in relation to those applications for development consent accepted for examination after 6 January 2026 they are capable of being important and relevant considerations in the decision-making process for this application.

Applicant: Review the application documents (in particular but not limited to ES part 1, chapter 2 Regulatory and Planning Context [APP-043]) in light of the newly designated NPSs and provide any updates and amendments as necessary.

Local authorities and interested parties: Submit any comments in relation to any implications of the newly designated NPSs for the examination of this application.

The Council has no comments on the NPS in relation to the proposal being examined.

**ISH2.022.** - Requirement 6 of the draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) [REP3-006] does not secure advanced planting, as it only prevents the authorised development from commencing, so could not be enforced for advanced planting. It therefore needs to be secured separately in the dDCO. Could advance mitigation planting be added to pre-commencement operations in article 2, with a requirement that pre-commencement operations cannot be carried out until details of advance planting are approved with a timetable for their implementation? Suggest some wording.

The Council will defer to Kent County Council and Thanet District Council on this matter as no advanced planting is proposed within DDC's boundary.

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

Yours sincerely



Principal Planning Officer

Development Management