

Response deadline: 10th February 2026

Our ref: PL00785922

Project: The Sea Link Project

Your Ref: EN020026

Registration ID: [REDACTED]

Response by: Slawek Utrata
Inspector of Ancient Monuments

Telephone: 01223 582725

Dear Sir/Madam,

**National Grid (Sea Link) Development Consent Order (Application Reference: EN020026)
Comments of the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England (Historic England) on
further information/ submissions received by deadline 3**

Historic England reviewed the documents submitted by the applicant for deadline 3. We specifically focused on the revised wording of draft DCO (REP3-006), REAC (REP3-076), and Outline Onshore Overarching Written Scheme of Investigation (OWSI) - Kent (REP3-051). Our comments below relate to these documents.

1. We are satisfied that the Draft DCO (REP3-006) wording now adequately secures Historic England's engagement in approving appropriate Historic Environment Management Plans and site-specific written schemes of investigation (Schedule 3; Requirement 14 - Archaeology).
2. We are also broadly satisfied that the Draft DCO (REP3-006) wording now secures Historic England's engagement in securing an appropriate final design for the Kent converter station (Schedule 3 Requirements; Section 3 - Converter Station Design). We do however suggest there needs to be an extra provision to say that in the event that amendments are required, these amendments are in general accordance with the design principles. This would then ensure the development will be carried out in accordance with those amended details.
3. Please note, as per the Applicant's Comments on Other Submissions Received at Deadline 2 (REP3-064), we agree that the changes to Requirement 3 of the Draft DCO is the most effective way to secure Historic England's engagement and that further REAC commitment regarding this particular issue is not necessary.
4. We note that the Schedule 19 (article 60) of the Draft DCO (REP3-006) which list the certified documents have been amended to include: Outline Offshore Overarching Written Scheme of Investigation, Outline Onshore Overarching Written Scheme of Investigation – Kent, and Outline Onshore Overarching Written Scheme of Investigation – Suffolk. We welcome this change, as it addresses our previous comments.

5. We are satisfied that the amended wording for commitment H06 in REAC document (REP3-076) now adequately secures Historic England's engagement in case of the unexpected discovery of archaeological remains of national significance (equivalent significance to designated heritage assets). We expect that the process for dealing with such eventuality will be detailed in the relevant Outline Onshore Overarching Written Scheme of Investigation documents.
6. The revised Outline Onshore Overarching Written Scheme of Investigation (OWSI) - Kent (REP3-051) (Version C) does not yet incorporate the comments previously provided by Historic England's Regional Science Advisor. We understand that the OWSI is to be updated after completing the ongoing geoarchaeological monitoring works. We therefore have no further comments at this time.
7. We note that only the original version of the Outline Onshore Overarching Written Scheme of Investigation (OWSI) – Suffolk (APP-343) has so far been submitted. In our Written Representations we provided recommendations for amendments and highlighted that the document needs to be amended. Historic England understands that the revised document will be revised when the report on additional archaeological evaluation is finalised and that amended OWSI will be submitted for deadline 5. We will be happy to provide further comments when this document is available.

Summary

Historic England welcomes changes to the wording of draft DCO and REAC documents. The current versions of these documents address our concerns raised in previous representations.

We understand that the wording of the Requirement 3 (REP3-006) is going to be revised. We have suggested that additional provision is included in the revised text.

We will continue to engage with the applicant over required changes to the Outline Onshore Overarching Written Schemes of Investigation for Kent and Suffolk. Historic England understands that revised versions of these documents will be submitted by Deadline 5. We will be happy to provide further comments at that point.

If you require clarity or further information on any matters, we have raised in the letter above or have other comments, please do not hesitate to contact us directly.

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