



Your reference EN020026

Our reference CLARMA/43283-4473

10 February 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 Examiner's Action Points arising from Issue Specific Hearing 2 (ISH2)
Deadline: 4

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.

The Applicant has submitted a change request on 26 November 2025, as an addendum to the Volume 6 Environmental Statement (document 9.76.5) (**Change Request**). Further, on the 16 January 2026 NR provided representations in respect of the Change Request and its potential impacts on NR.

In regard to the Change Request, the Examiner has requested further information in respect of the following:

Q.63. Please clarify whether it is likely that the rail line under Benhall Rail Bridge would need to be closed if either of the applicant's proposed options (bridge strengthening works or use of a mini bridge) were undertaken to facilitate abnormal load crossings. If so, what would be the implications of such a closure?

NR's Response

A railway closure of the line beneath Benhall Bridge would be necessary, if either of the Applicant's proposed options (bridge strengthening works or use of a mini bridge) were undertaken to facilitate abnormal load crossings.

Both options involve substantial works to be carried out either above or immediately adjacent to an operational railway line, which, to ensure the safety of passengers and the railway, would necessitate a closure of the line during the works.

At present, it is not possible to comment on the specific duration and timing of any railway closure, as this would depend on several factors including, the operational timetable for the line, the scope and method of the works, and the availability of pre-booked possessions.

Impacts of the Closure

The potential impacts of a railway line closure, may include:

- Disruption to scheduled rail services, which may also necessitate replacement bus services or other mitigation measures for service disruption;
- Impacts on freight operations, including those associated with the Sizewell C project, which was granted consent in 2025;

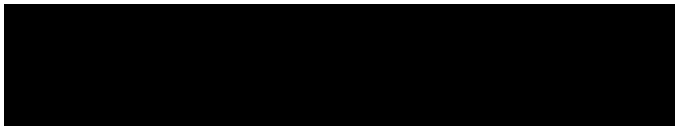
Any closures would need to be arranged with NR's asset protection department, as well as supervised and overseen by them to ensure adequate protection and safety of the railway. Further the Applicant would need to agree to bear all costs associated with the closure.

It should also be noted that the proposal to close the road while bridge works are undertaken, may increase pressure on existing level crossings in Saxmundham town centre (Rendham Road and Albion Street) as a result.

Network Rail is continuing to review the Change Request documentation and proposals and will continue to work constructively with the Applicant to clarify any issues raised. Accordingly, Network Rail reserves the right to produce additional and further grounds of concern and its effects of this Change Request on Network Rail's assets are available.

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

Yours faithfully



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