



**National
Trust**

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09 March 2026

Planning Inspectorate

Dear Planning Inspectorate,

**Application by National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) for Sea Link
The Examining Authority's written questions and requests for information (ExQ2) and
additional comments on Ecological Impact and Construction methodology**

Response from the National Trust

With our staff, members, volunteers and supporters, the National Trust is the biggest conservation charity in Europe. We protect and care for places so people and nature can thrive. Many millions share the belief that nature, beauty and history are for everyone. So we look after the nation's coastline, historic sites, countryside and green spaces, ensuring everyone benefits. For everyone, for ever.

Responses to information provided within the ExQ2

The National Trust has reviewed the Examining Authority's second written questions (ExQ2). A number of the questions touch on matters previously raised by the Trust, including the approach to intertidal access and vehicle movements at Pegwell Bay, hoverport access arrangements, seasonal and disturbance sensitivities, the management of HDD-related risks, and the potential implications of future remedial works should cable exposure occur over the operational lifetime of the project. Given the ongoing discussions and the inter-relationship between these matters, the Trust considers that it would be more constructive to explore these issues further through discussion rather than provide detailed written responses at this stage. The Trust therefore proposes that these matters are picked up and discussed at the forthcoming workshop scheduled for Thursday 19th March, to help clarify expectations, identify any remaining concerns, and understand how they may be addressed as the project progresses.

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Further comments on documentation issued in relation to Ecological Impact and Construction Methodology

The Trust notes that the Applicant has submitted and updated a number of documents relating to ecology, construction methodology and design at the Trust's Kent landfall site, including the *Pegwell Bay Construction Method Technical Note (Tracked Changes)* (EN020026-002691-9.13 (C)), *Part 3 Kent Chapter 2: Ecology and Biodiversity (Tracked)* (EN020026-002688-6.2.3.2 (E)), and *Design Principles – Kent (Tracked Changes)* (EN020026-002690-7.12.2 (B)). These documents are relevant to issues and concerns previously raised by the Trust. The Trust intends to consider these updates further and will respond through the Examination process following a workshop with the Applicant scheduled for Thursday 19th March.

We would also like to comment on a significant issue that has recently emerged in relation to the inclusion of approximately 108 acres of intertidal SSSI habitat at Pegwell Bay within the Order Limits, to the south of the Limit of Deviation for the marine cables. At present, it is not clear from the application why this area is required, as it does not appear to be necessary for the laying of cables or ducts. Given the scale and sensitivity of the land involved, the Trust considers that further clarification is required before it can be concluded that a compelling case in the public interest has been made for the use of compulsory powers in respect of this area.

Yours sincerely



Estate Manager

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