

FAO Sarah Holmes
Lead Member of the Examining Authority
Sea Link DCO
The Planning Inspectorate
National infrastructure Planning
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol
BS1 6PN

10 March 2026

By email to southeastanglialink@planninginspectorate.gov.uk and by file transfer

Dear Ms Holmes,

Planning Act 2008 (as amended)

Application by National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc (National Grid) for an Order granting Development Consent for Sea Link

Deadline 5 Cover Letter

This cover letter has been prepared by National Grid (the Applicant) to accompany their Deadline 5 submission made on 10 March 2026 of the SEA Link DCO Examination.

These submissions are set out in Table 1 below and are made in accordance with the revised Examination Timetable set out at **Annex A** of the **Rule 8(3), rule 9 and rule 17 - Applicant's request for proposed changes to the development consent order application and notice of variation to the examination timetable** dated **5 December 2025 [PD-015]**.

Table 1 below lists the documents submitted by the Applicant at Deadline 5.

Table 1: documents submitted at Deadline 5

Doc Ref	Document Title	Rev	Reason for Submission
Volume 2			
2.3 (F)	Land Plans Part 1 of 2	F	Update to plots.
2.3 (F)	Land Plans Part 2 of 2	F	Update to plots.
2.9.2 (B)	Habitats of Protected Species and Important Habitats - Kent	B	Update to support response to 2ECOL54 from Examining Authorities Second Written Questions [PD-021] .
Volume 3			
3.1 (H)	draft Development Consent Order (Clean, Tracked and Word version)	H	Update in alignment with Annex E of Rule 6 [PD-010] .
3.2 (G)	Explanatory Memorandum (Clean and Tracked)	G	Update in alignment with Annex E of Rule 6 [PD-010] .
Volume 4			
4.2 (H)	Statement of Reasons (Clean and Tracked)	H	Update to plots.
4.2.1 (F)	Statement of Reasons Appendix A Compulsory Acquisition and Temporary Possession Powers (Clean and Tracked)	F	Update in alignment with Annex E of Rule 6 [PD-010] .
4.2.2 (F)	Statement of Reasons Appendix B Schedule of Negotiations with Land Interests (Clean and Tracked)	F	Update in alignment with Annex E of Rule 6 [PD-010] and to provide an update on negotiations.
4.3 (F)	Book of Reference (Clean and Tracked)	F	Update to reflect updates to SPR land, errata and in alignment with Annex E of Rule 6 [PD-010] .
Volume 6			
6.2.3.2 (F)	Part 3 Kent Chapter 2 Ecology and Biodiversity (Clean and Tracked)	F	Update to correct updated text from Deadline 4A regarding air quality impacts from generators on SSSI.
6.2.4.1 (F)	Part 4 Marine Chapter 1 Physical Environment (Clean and Tracked)	F	Update to address comments received from Natural England at Deadline 4.
6.2.4.2 (E)	Part 4 Marine Chapter 2 Benthic Ecology (Clean and Tracked)	E	Update to include reference to rock bags at HDD exits in

			addition to concrete mattresses.
6.2.4.4 (H)	Part 4 Marine Chapter 4 Marine Mammals (Clean and Tracked)	H	Update to reflect response to Examining Authorities Second Written Questions [PD-021] .
6.2.4.7 (D)	Part 4 Marine Chapter 7 Shipping and Navigation (Clean and Tracked)	D	Update to reflect recent engagement.
6.3.2.2.1 (B)	ES Appendix 2.2.1 Nighttime Bat Walkover and Static Detector Survey Report (Clean and Tracked)	B	Update to correct errata.
6.3.3.7.A (B)	ES Appendix 3.7.A Transport Assessment Note (Clean and Tracked)	B	Update to incorporate junction capacity modelling.
6.3.4.7.A (D)	ES Appendix 4.7.A Navigational Risk Assessment (Clean and Tracked)	D	Update to reflect recent engagement.
6.4.4.5 (E)	ES Figures Marine Ornithology (Clean and Tracked)	E	Update to support responses to Examining Authorities Second Written Questions [PD-021] .
6.4.4.8 (B)	ES Figures Marine Commercial Fisheries (Clean and Tracked)	B	Update to correct errata.
6.6 (G)	Habitats Regulations Assessment Report (Clean and Tracked)	G	Update in response to comments from Natural England.
6.11 (D)	Marine Conservation Zone Assessment (Clean and Tracked)	D	Update in response to comments from Natural England.
Volume 7			
7.4 (E)	Statement of Commonality (Clean and Tracked)	E	Update in alignment with Annex E of Rule 6 [PD-010] .
7.4.3 (C)	Draft Statement of Common Ground Historic England (Clean and Tracked)	C	Update on progression of discussions.
7.4.4 (D)	Draft Statement of Common Ground Marine Management Organisation (Clean and Tracked)	D	Update on progression of discussions.

7.4.5 (D)	Draft Statement of Common Ground Thanet District Council (Clean and Tracked)	D	Update on progression of discussions.
7.4.6 (D)	Draft Statement of Common Ground Dover District Council (Clean and Tracked)	D	Update on progression of discussions.
7.4.7 (D)	Draft Statement of Common Ground Kent County Council (Clean and Tracked)	D	Update on progression of discussions.
7.4.9 (C)	Draft Statement of Common Ground Harwich Haven Authority (Clean and Tracked)	C	Update on progression of discussions.
7.4.10 (D)	Draft Statement of Common Ground Maritime and Coastguard Agency (Clean and Tracked)	D	Update on progression of discussions.
7.4.11 (D)	Draft Statement of Common Ground Port of London Authority (Clean and Tracked)	D	Update on progression of discussions.
7.4.12 (D)	Draft Statement of Common Ground Trinity House (Clean and Tracked)	D	Update on progression of discussions.
7.4.13 (D)	Draft Statement of Common Ground UK Chamber of Shipping (Clean and Tracked)	D	Update on progression of discussions.
7.4.14 (B)	Draft Statement of Common Ground Sandwich Port and Haven Commissioners (Clean and Tracked)	B	Update on progression of discussions.
7.5.1.1 (D)	Outline Construction Traffic Management and Travel Plan - Suffolk (Clean and Tracked)	D	Update to reflect feedback from Suffolk County Council Highways.
7.5.2 (C)	Outline Offshore Construction Environmental Management Plan (Clean and Tracked)	C	Update to reflect reorganisation of commitments.
7.5.3 (C)	Outline Onshore Construction Environmental Management Plan (Clean and Tracked)	C	Update to reflect reorganisation of commitments and to split measures formerly in the CoCP between the onshore and offshore CEMPs

			to make approvals processes clearer.
7.5.4.1 (B)	Outline Onshore Overarching Written Scheme of Investigation (OWSI) - Suffolk (Clean and Tracked)	B	Update in response to stakeholder feedback.
7.5.4.2 (D)	Outline Onshore Overarching Written Scheme of Investigation (OWSI) - Kent (Clean and Tracked)	D	Update to reflect feedback from stakeholders.
7.5.6.1 (D)	Outline Air Quality Management Plan - Suffolk (Clean and Tracked)	D	Update to reflect updated REAC measures.
7.5.6.2 (C)	Outline Air Quality Management Plan - Kent (Clean and Tracked)	C	Update to reflect updated REAC measures.
7.5.12 (C)	Outline Offshore Invasive Non-Native Species Management Plan (Clean)	C	Update in response to comments from Natural England.
7.8 (B)	Red Throated Diver Protocol (Clean and Tracked)	B	Update in response to comments from Natural England and to support response to Examining Authorities Second Written Questions [PD-021] .
Volume 9			
9.7 (F)	Applicant's Schedule of Changes to the Draft Development Consent Order (Clean and Tracked)	F	Update in alignment with Annex E of Rule 6 [PD-010] .
9.16 (E)	Lands Rights Tracker	E	Update in alignment with Annex E of Rule 6 [PD-010] .
9.17.1 (B)	Suffolk Drainage Strategy (Clean and Tracked)	B	Update to reflect engagement with Suffolk County Council.
9.17.2 (B)	Kent Drainage Strategy (Clean and Tracked)	B	Update to reflect engagement with Suffolk County Council and comments from the Environment Agency.
9.27	Updated Archaeological Assessment - Suffolk	A	Update to archaeological assessment following Phase 2a, Phase 2b and Phase 3 of archaeological trial trenching Suffolk.

9.29 (B)	Draft Statement of Common Ground Environment Agency (Clean and Tracked)	B	Update on progression of discussions.
9.30	Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) Survey Results – Suffolk	A	Results of ALC Surveys in Suffolk.
9.31	Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) Survey Results – Kent	A	Results of ALC Surveys in Kent.
9.38.6	Deadline 5 Cover Letter	A	This document.
9.43 (C)	Draft Statement of Common Ground Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (Clean and Tracked)	C	Update on progression of discussions.
9.46 (B)	Draft Statement of Common Ground Anglian Water (Clean and Tracked)	B	Update on progression of discussions.
9.57 (B)	Draft Statement of Common Ground Northumbrian Water Group (Clean and Tracked)	B	Update on progression of discussions.
9.59	Draft Statement of Common Ground Scottish Power Renewables	A	New Statement of Common Ground submitted.
9.62 (B)	Draft Statement of Common Ground UK Power Networks (Clean and Tracked)	B	Update on progression of discussions.
9.65 (B)	Draft Statement of Common Ground National Trust (Clean and Tracked)	B	Update on progression of discussions.
9.66	Draft Statement of Common Ground East of England Ambulance Service	A	New Statement of Common Ground submitted.
9.67 (B)	Draft Statement of Common Ground National Grid Ventures (Clean and Tracked)	B	Update on progression of discussions.
9.75 (C)	Status of Negotiations with Statutory Undertakers and Protective Provisions (Clean and Tracked)	C	Update in alignment with Annex E of Rule 6 [PD-010] .
9.76.5.7 (B)	Change Request Appendix G Tree Survey Schedule	B	Update to errata in response to feedback from Suffolk County Council in REP3A-031.

	Extract Suffolk Onshore Scheme (Clean and Tracked)		
9.76.5.8 (B)	Change Request Appendix H Tree Constraints Plans Suffolk Onshore Scheme	B	Update to errata in response to feedback from Suffolk County Council in REP3A-031.
9.76.5.9 (B)	Change Request Appendix I Tree Protection Plans Suffolk Onshore Scheme	B	Update to errata in response to feedback from Suffolk County Council in REP3A-031.
9.77 (G)	Application and Examination Document Tracker	G	Updated for Deadline 5.
9.84 (C)	Register of Environmental Actions and Commitments (REAC) (Clean and Tracked)	C	Update to reflect new commitments.
9.92 (B)	Outline Cable Specification and Installation Plan (Clean and Tracked)	B	Update to reflect feedback from Port received at Deadline 4 and subsequent engagement.
9.95	Draft Statement of Common Ground Southern Water	A	New Statement of Common Ground submitted.
9.96 (B)	Water Depth Baseline Study – Shipping and Navigation Technical Note (Clean and Tracked)	B	Update to reflect errata identified in the Examining Authorities Second Written Questions [PD-021] .
9.99	Groundwater Flood Risk at the Minster Converter Station Site	A	New document to address submissions from Save Minister Marshes at Deadline 4 and the Environment Agency’s groundwater flood warning recently issued.
9.100	Draft Statement of Common Ground London Gateway Port Limited	A	New Statement of Common Ground submitted.
9.102	Operational Noise Contour Plan for Minster Converter Station	A	New document in response to Action Point 68 in Application Document 9.108 Applicant’s Response to January Hearing Action Points (CAH1 and ISH2) - Deadline 5 .
9.107	Applicant's Response to Suffolk County Council's Deadline 4 Submission on Alternate Access to	A	New document containing the Applicant’s response to Suffolk County Council’s Deadline 4 Submission [REP4-149] .

	Saxmundham Converter Station		
9.108	Applicant's Response to January Hearing Action Points (CAH1 and ISH2) - Deadline 5	A	Response by the Applicant to Action Points arising from Issue Specific Hearing 2 (ISH2) on environmental issues held on Wednesday 28 January to Friday 30 January 2026 [EV-033] and Action Points arising from Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 1 (CAH1) held on Tuesday 27 January 2026 [EV-034] .
9.108.1	Applicant's Response to January Hearing Action Points (CAH1 and ISH2) - Deadline 5 - Appendices	A	Appendix for Application Document 9.108 Applicant's Response to January Hearing Action Points (CAH1 and ISH2) - Deadline 5 .
9.115.1	Outline Materials and Waste Management Plan - Suffolk	A	Update in response to 101 from Examining Authorities First Written Questions [PD-017] .
9.115.2	Outline Materials and Waste Management Plan - Kent	A	Update in response to 101 from Examining Authorities First Written Questions [PD-017] .
9.118	Draft Statement of Common Ground Southern Gas Networks Limited	A	New Statement of Common Ground submitted.
9.119	Applicant's Comments on Late Responses to ExA First Written Questions	A	Response by the Applicant on late responses by Interested Parties to Examining Authorities First Written Questions [PD-017] .
9.121	Applicant's Comments on Other Submissions Received at Deadline 4	A	Comments by Applicant on Other Submissions Received at Deadline 4.
9.121.1	Applicant's Comments on Other Submissions Received at Deadline 4 - Appendix A	A	Appendix for Application Document 9.121 Applicant's Comments on Other

			Submissions Received at Deadline 4
9.122	Surface Water Flood Risk and Climate Change - Technical Note	A	Supplementary note and drawings illustrating surface water flood maps for the future with climate change scenario, following engagement with Suffolk County Council and East Suffolk Council.
9.123	Applicant's Responses to Second Written Questions	A	Response by the Applicant to Examining Authorities Second Written Questions [PD-021] .
9.123.1	Applicant's Responses to Second Written Questions - Appendices	A	Appendix for Application Document 9.123 Applicant's Responses to Second Written Questions – Appendices .
9.124	Landscape and Visual Nighttime Assessment	A	New document in response to Action Point 51 in Application Document 9.108 Applicant's Response to January Hearing Action Points (CAH1 and ISH2) - Deadline 5 .
9.125	Assessment of Cumulative Effects on the Wider Historic Landscapes	A	New document in response to Action Point 55 in Application Document 9.108 Applicant's Response to January Hearing Action Points (CAH1 and ISH2) - Deadline 5 .
9.126	Areas of Safeguarded Water Depth - Consideration of Additional Installation Requirements	A	New document to provide information and assessment on additional pre-sweeping requirements in the PLA Sunk Pilot Boarding area and the use of additional cable burial techniques within the NE Spit that are required to safeguard water depths in these locations.

9.127	Suffolk Phase 3 Archaeological Evaluation Final Report	A	Report of the results of Phase 3 archaeological evaluation trial trenching in Suffolk.
9.128	Applicant's Response to Nicholas Bridges Representations RR-3944 and REP3-132 and SEAS REP4-240	A	Response by the Applicant to Nicholas Bridges and SEAS Relevant Representation, and representations submitted at Deadline 3 and Deadline 4.
9.129	Applicants Response to ExQ2 2GEN1 and 2GEN2 in respect of Need	A	Response by the Applicant to Examining Authorities Second Written Questions [PD-021] , questions 2GEN1 and 2GEN2 in respect to Need.
9.130	Groundwater Heat Pollution - Technical Note	A	New document to support Applicant's response to issue EA053 from the Environment Agency's Relevant Representation (RR-1586).

All updated documents are labelled as Revision (B), Revision (C) etc as applicable, and supersede the documents previously submitted by the Applicant.

Where applicable, these documents are provided in clean and tracked versions as requested in the **Rule 6 Letter [PD-010]**. The Application and Examination Document Tracker (**Application Document 9.77 (G)**) has been updated to reflect the above submissions.

Statements of Common Ground

Table 2 below lists the Statements of Common Ground submitted in accordance with Annex E of the **ExA's Rule 6 Letter [PD-010]** at Deadline 5. The Applicant has not submitted Statements of Common Ground at Deadline 5 where no substantive update has been made to the version submitted at a previous deadline.

Table 2: Statements of Common Ground Submitted at Deadline 5

Doc Ref	Document Title	Rev
7.4.3 (C)	Draft Statement of Common Ground Historic England (Clean and Tracked)	C
7.4.4 (D)	Draft Statement of Common Ground Marine Management Organisation (Clean and Tracked)	D

7.4.5 (D)	Draft Statement of Common Ground Thanet District Council (Clean and Tracked)	D
7.4.6 (D)	Draft Statement of Common Ground Dover District Council (Clean and Tracked)	D
7.4.7 (D)	Draft Statement of Common Ground Kent County Council (Clean and Tracked)	D
7.4.9 (C)	Draft Statement of Common Ground Harwich Haven Authority (Clean and Tracked)	C
7.4.10 (D)	Draft Statement of Common Ground Maritime and Coastguard Agency (Clean and Tracked)	D
7.4.11 (D)	Draft Statement of Common Ground Port of London Authority (Clean and Tracked)	D
7.4.12 (D)	Draft Statement of Common Ground Trinity House (Clean and Tracked)	D
7.4.13 (D)	Draft Statement of Common Ground UK Chamber of Shipping (Clean and Tracked)	D
7.4.14 (B)	Draft Statement of Common Ground Sandwich Port and Haven Commissioners (Clean and Tracked)	B
9.29 (B)	Draft Statement of Common Ground Environment Agency (Clean and Tracked)	B
9.43 (C)	Draft Statement of Common Ground Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (Clean and Tracked)	C
9.46 (B)	Draft Statement of Common Ground Anglian Water (Clean and Tracked)	B
9.57 (B)	Draft Statement of Common Ground Northumbrian Water Group (Clean and Tracked)	B
9.59	Draft Statement of Common Ground Scottish Power Renewables	A
9.62 (B)	Draft Statement of Common Ground UK Power Networks (Clean and Tracked)	B
9.65 (B)	Draft Statement of Common Ground National Trust (Clean and Tracked)	B
9.66	Draft Statement of Common Ground East of England Ambulance Service	A
9.67 (B)	Draft Statement of Common Ground National Grid Ventures (Clean and Tracked)	B
9.95	Draft Statement of Common Ground Southern Water	A

9.100	Draft Statement of Common Ground London Gateway Port Limited	A
9.118	Draft Statement of Common Ground Southern Gas Networks Limited	A

SEAS REP4-202

In response to the above submission from SEAS, the Applicant regrets to say that the wrong version of **Appendix B** to the **Statement of Reasons** was displayed during the Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 1. In the version displayed, the Relevant Representation was attributed to the incorrect Affected Party.

The correct position in respect of the Crown Estates is as set out in the Relevant Representation [**RR-5378**], which states:

“The Crown Estate requests to be registered as an Interested Party in the examination of Sea Link. Our interest in the project relates to the proposed cable route and the agreement of land and seabed rights required to deliver the project.”

Protective Provisions

In terms of bespoke protective provisions, the Applicant has included a number of these in Schedule 15 of the draft DCO and is continuing to negotiate with the relevant bodies.

Protective provisions in favour of SPR, East Anglia ONE North Limited, East Anglia TWO Limited and East Anglia Three Limited, have not been added into the draft DCO at Deadline 5. The SPR companies have now shared drafts of their requested bespoke protective provisions, and the Applicant is considering them. However, given the particular nature of the interface with SPR and its two DCOs, including in respect of Friston substation and the proposed transfer of benefit of powers, any such protective provisions must be considered in the context of the wider suite of negotiations between the Applicant and SPR. Negotiations are continuing between the Applicant and SPR in relation to a number of commercial points and the Applicant will look to agree appropriate bespoke protective provisions with SPR, as soon as possible.

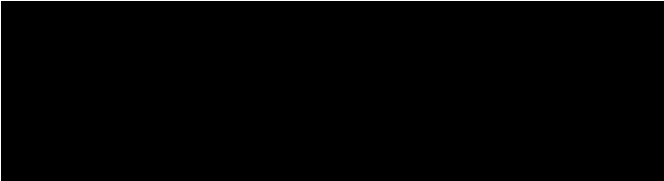
Responses to Deadline 4 Submissions

The Applicant has submitted the **Applicant's Comments on Other Submissions Received at Deadline 4** which comprises the Applicant's responses to selected Deadline 4 submissions. These are provided where it is considered that it is helpful to do so. The Applicant has also responded to the submissions from SEAS in relation to need in **Applicants Response to ExQ2 2GEN1 and 2GEN2 document** that is submitted at this deadline.

Conclusion

Should the ExA have any queries in relation to this letter, they are invited to contact me, [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]@nationalgrid.com) in the first instance.

Yours sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.

Senior Project Manager
For and on behalf of National Grid Electricity Transmission