



# The Planning Inspectorate

## **The Planning Act 2008**

## **Application for Development Consent for the Sea Link Project**

**Case Ref: EN020026**

## **The Examining Authority's Note of an Unaccompanied Site Inspection**

### **Background**

The Examining Authority ('the ExA') undertook an unaccompanied site inspection (USI) to support the examination of an application for development consent for the proposed Sea Link Project ('the application') on the evening of Saturday 28 February 2026.

The ExA carried out its USI from publicly accessible land.

The USI was undertaken to view the 1.4 GW Viking Link HVDC Converter Station site west of Donington, Lincolnshire. In particular, the ExA wished view the site at night to understand lighting and noise emissions. This was one of the locations identified as comparable with Sea Link by the applicant [AS-066].

### **Particulars of the Site Visit**

The visit was undertaken by: Richard Hunt.

The visit was undertaken by car.

Weather conditions were intermittently rainy and partially cloudy with a temperature circa 10 degrees centigrade. The inspection commenced at approximately 18:23 and finished at approximately 19:00. A list of the locations visited is attached at Annex A.

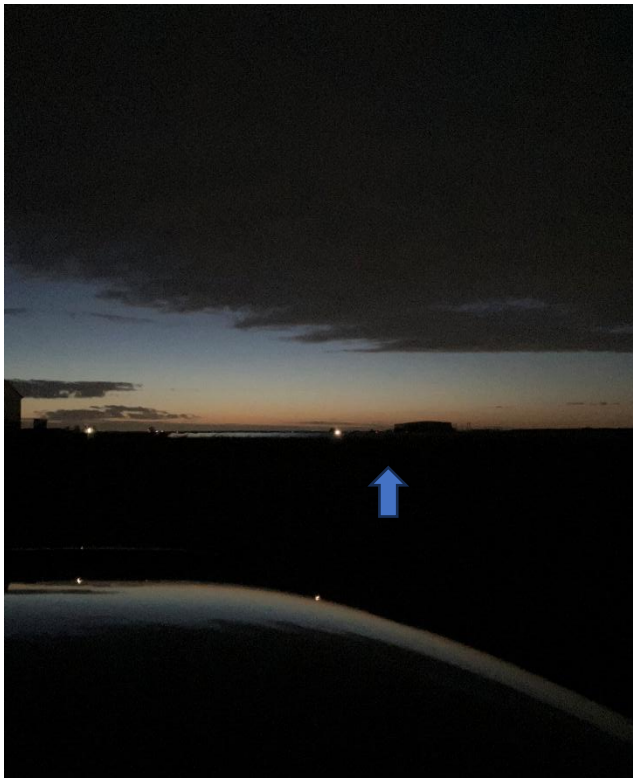


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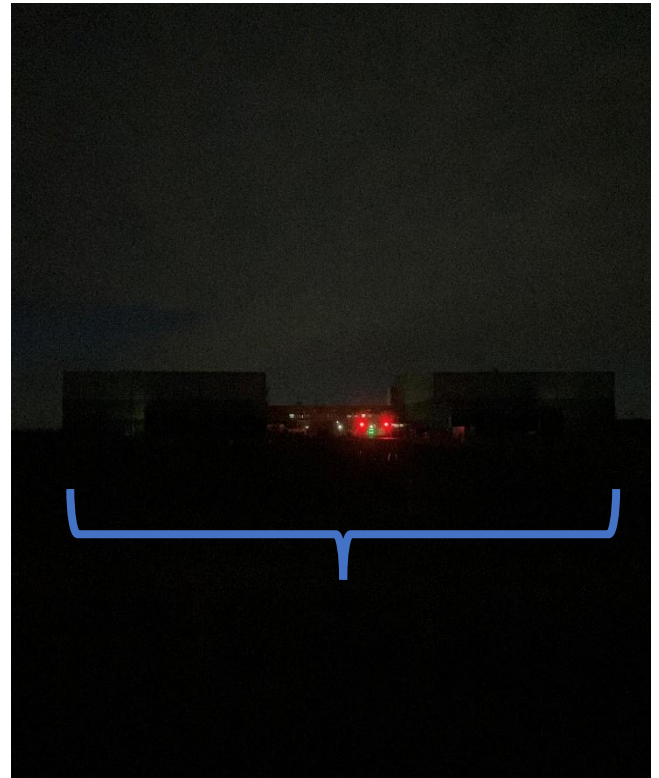
### Annex A: List of locations visited on the Unaccompanied Site Inspection on the evening of Saturday 28 February 2026

The ExA drove from the A52 to North Ing Drove via Northorpe Road, then Middle Fen Drove to view the Viking Link HVDC Converter Station from its southern access (see inset map below). The ExA paused at the junction of Middle Fen Drove with a private access to photograph the converter station from the east (Photograph A). The ExA noted:

- Limited external lighting (no perimeter lighting in evidence).
- Scale of buildings, although these were noted to be in context with other large agricultural buildings within the landscape and were somewhat diminished by the open nature of the landscape.
- Lighting, which was limited to a small number of task lights in a central courtyard to the building as well as red and green lights at the front of the building (shown in Photograph B – extent of building structure indicated in blue).
- Other characteristics such as fencing and landscaping were not visible.
- The ExA noted that ambient noise levels were low, although a distant continuous rushing noise – potentially distant traffic noise was audible.



Photograph A – blue arrow indicates converter station



Photograph B – blue line indicates extent of converter station. Site more easily viewed electronically



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The route is shown below (arrows and letters correspond with approximate location of photos).

