



**National
Trust**

██████████e@nationaltrust.org.uk

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09 April 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 (ExQ3) and
additional comments on Marine and Physical Environment**

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 ExQ3

The National Trust has reviewed the Examining Authority's third written questions (ExQ3) directed to the Trust, including the question relating to the Marine and Physical Environment.

Our response focuses on the proposed use of an Environmental Clerk of Works (EnvCoW) and an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) to oversee the works. We would prefer these roles to be jointly instructed to ensure coordinated oversight, however we appreciate this may not be possible in practical terms. Given the site's previous history, it is essential that clear notification and communication arrangements are secured, including appropriate updates and advance notice to enable effective ecological and environmental oversight.

Although the Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) includes a commitment to provide both roles, it lacks clarity on the proposed structure and reporting arrangements between the EnvCoW and ECoW, and the process for communicating with the National Trust. In particular, we seek confirmation of who will hold lead responsibility for environmental and ecological compliance, how the two roles will interact and escalate issues, and how (and by whom) the

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Patron: His Majesty The King
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Regional Director: Nicola Briggs

Registered office:
Heelis, Kemble Drive, Swindon
Wiltshire SN2 2NA
Registered charity number 205846

National Trust will be notified of incidents, non-compliances and material changes to the works. We would also request that both the EnvCoW and ECoW are suitably qualified and experienced for their respective roles.

Further comments on questions relating to Marine and Physical Environment

We would also like to comment on a question posed to other parties, notably question 3PE6, relating to the Marine and Physical Environment and the requirement for further monitoring after five years under MPE09, to be subject to agreement with relevant stakeholders. We support the intention of this approach; however, there remains uncertainty as to how and when such agreement will be secured and implemented. We therefore request that REP5-066 is updated to reflect this commitment and the process for agreeing any further monitoring with relevant stakeholders.

Yours sincerely



Estate Manager

Cont/d