

**The Great Grid Upgrade**

Sea Link

# Sea Link

**Volume 9: Examination Submissions**

**Document 9.75: Status of Negotiations with Statutory Undertakers and Schedule of Protective Provisions**

**Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN020026**

**Version: D  
April 2026**

**nationalgrid**

**Page intentionally blank**

# Contents

<b>1.</b>	<b>About This Document</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1	Introduction	1
<b>2.</b>	<b>Schedules of Statutory Undertakers and Protective Provisions</b>	<b>3</b>
2.1	Affected Statutory Undertakers and Parties Requesting Protective Provisions	3
2.2	Protective Provisions in the DCO	3
2.3	Negotiations with Statutory Undertakers	4
2.4	Protective Provisions and Side Agreements	16
	Table 2.1: Schedule of Negotiations with Statutory Undertakers – Deadline 6 Update	4
	Table 2.2: Protective Provisions and Side Agreements – Deadline 6 Update	16

## Sea Link Document Control

---

<b>Version</b>			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Version</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Description / Changes</b>
18/11/2025	A	Final	Deadline 1
09/01/2026	B	Final	Deadline 3 update
10/03/2026	C	Final	Deadline 5 update
13/04/2026	D	Final	Deadline 6 update

---

# 1. About This Document

## 1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 Pursuant to Annex E of the Rule 6 Letter, issued by the Examining Authority to the Applicant on 19 September 2025, this document provides details relating to the status of negotiations with statutory undertakers, providing further detail of ongoing discussions between the applicant and those statutory undertakers with outstanding concerns which have not been provided within the Land Rights Tracker, including:

1.1.2 A schedule of progress in relation to each statutory undertaker where s127 and/ or s138 of the PA2008 applies and that sets out:

- An up-to-date list of statutory undertakers.
  - The nature of their undertakings.
  - The statutory undertaker's land, rights or apparatus that would be affected and how it would be affected.
  - The progress made in discussions with statutory undertakers since the last update in relation to the tests set out in s127(3)(a) or (b), s127(6)(a) or (b) and s138(4) of the PA2008.
  - Any agreement or differences between the applicant and the statutory undertaker about whether the tests have been met.
  - A summary of the progress made since the last update, any outstanding matters, the next steps to be taken, and the progress anticipated by the close of the examination.
- A schedule of progress in relation to the protective provisions included in the draft Development Consent Order (dDCO), and any related side agreements, setting out:
  - The name of each organisation that each protective provision applies to where this is not identified in the dDCO.
  - The scope and purpose of any relevant side agreements with each organisation.
  - Whether the protective provisions and any side agreements have been agreed with each organisation, providing written evidence from each party of any agreement. If written confirmation is not received by all relevant parties before the close of the examination, then the ExA may be minded to recommend to the Secretary of State that it does not make a decision until it has satisfied itself that the protective provisions and any relevant side agreements have been agreed.
  - A summary of the progress made since the last update, any outstanding matters, the next steps to be taken, and the progress anticipated by the close of the examination.

- 1.1.3 Due to this information being published on the project webpage, commercial and/or confidential details are not included.

## 2. Schedules of Statutory Undertakers and Protective Provisions

### 2.1 Affected Statutory Undertakers and Parties Requesting Protective Provisions

- 2.1.1 Table 2.1 provides a schedule of progress in relation to each SU where s127 and/or S138 of the Planning Act 2008 applies, based on information contained in Application Document 4.2 (H) Statement of Reasons and the Application Document 9.16 (F) Land Rights Tracker.
- 2.1.2 This is the fourth iteration of this schedule, which is to be submitted to the Examining Authority at Deadline 6.
- 2.1.3 The Applicant will continue to engage with relevant statutory undertakers and parties requesting protective provisions and/or side agreements as the DCO examination progresses. As such, the schedule will be updated at regular intervals over the course of the examination, providing updates on the status of the Applicant's negotiations.

### 2.2 Protective Provisions in the DCO

- 2.2.1 Schedule 15 of the dDCO sets out the Applicant's standard protective provisions in two parts. These protective provisions are in favour of the following undertakers:
- Part 1: Electricity, Gas, Water and Sewerage Undertakers
  - Part 2: Operators of Electronic Communications Code Networks
- 2.2.2 In addition to the standard protective provisions in Schedule 15, the Applicant is negotiating bespoke protective provisions and other side agreements with a range of statutory undertakers and other parties who have requested them. Where sufficiently progressed, bespoke protective provisions are included in the dDCO. Updates on the status in each case are as below.
- 2.2.3 The current position of the negotiation of protective provisions is generally summarised as either 'requested' or 'under negotiation'. The former indicates that a party has requested protective provisions, but discussions have not confirmed if this is the most appropriate mechanism for securing their asks. Under negotiation is where discussion about the content of protective provisions is ongoing. In some cases a bespoke narrative is required to explain the current position.
- 2.2.4 This schedule will be updated to reflect ongoing negotiations with statutory undertakers and other parties and further iterations of this document submitted at future deadlines.

## 2.3 Negotiations with Statutory Undertakers

**Table 2.1: Schedule of Negotiations with Statutory Undertakers – Deadline 6 Update**

<b>Statutory Undertaker</b>	<b>Nature of Undertaking</b>	<b>Plots</b>	<b>Land, rights or apparatus affected</b>	<b>Engagement of s.127 and/or s.138</b>	<b>Status of negotiation</b>
Anglian Water Services Limited	Water and Sewage	Suffolk: 5/32, 1/11, 5/27, 5/29, 2/73, 2/77	The Proposed Project HVDC cable route crosses or is situated in close proximity to a number of pipes for Foul Water Rising Mains, Effluent pipes and Gravity Foul Sewers. In addition, the proposed bridge for a permanent access route over the River Fromus requires foundation and abutment construction	The Applicant is in active negotiations with a view to addressing the relevant tests.  The Applicant will make any necessary submission addressing the statutory tests before the end of the examination.	The Applicant and the statutory undertaker have reached agreement in principle on a set of protective provisions.  It is expected that agreement will be finalised and the bespoke protective provisions included in the dDCO at Deadline 7.
Northumbrian Water Group Limited (Essex & Suffolk Water)	Water and Sewage	Suffolk: 1/2, 1/4, 1/5, 1/7, 1/8, 1/9, 1/10, 1/11, 1/13, 1/14, 1/16, 1/17, 1/18, 1/19, 1/20, 1/21, 1/22, 1/23, 1/24, 1/25, 1/26, 1/27, 1/28, 1/29, 1/30, 1/31, 1/32, 1/33, 1/34, 1/35, 1/36, 1/37, 1/38, 1/39, 1/40, 1/41, 1/42, 1/43, 1/44, 1/45, 1/46, 1/47, 1/48,	The Proposed Project has 1x trenchless crossing methodology for HVDC cable to run underneath a Distribution Main; 3x open cut HVDC cables crossing Distribution Mains; protection required for Mains underneath bellmouths and haul roads.	The Applicant is in active negotiations with a view to addressing the relevant tests.  The Applicant will make any necessary submission addressing the statutory tests before the end of the examination.	The Applicant included its proposed bespoke protective provisions in the version of the dDCO submitted at Deadline 5 and negotiations with the statutory undertaker are ongoing.  It is expected that agreement will be reached before the end of the examination process. There are also ongoing negotiations relating to an Asset Protection Agreement.

Statutory Undertaker	Nature of Undertaking	Plots	Land, rights or apparatus affected	Engagement of s.127 and/or s.138	Status of negotiation
Southern Water Services Limited	Water and Sewage	1/49, 1/52, 1/56, 1/57, 1/58, 1/60, 1/64, 1/67, 1/75, 1/76, 1/77, 1/78, 1/79, 1/80, 1/81, 1/82, 1/83, 1/84, 1/85, 1/86, 1/87, 1/90, 1/92, 1/93, 1/94, 1/95, 1/99, 1/100, 2/1, 2/5, 2/6, 2/7, 2/7a, 2/7b, 2/20, 2/20c, 2/20d, 3/17, 3/38, 3/39, 3/40, 3/45, 3/46, 3/47, 3/49, 3/51, 3/53, 3/55, 3/56, 3/57, 3/59, 3/63, 4/2, 4/4, 4/5, 4/6, 4/8, 4/9, 4/10, 4/11, 4/14, 4/15, 4/16, 4/17, 4/19, 4/24, 4/25, 4/26, 5/1, 5/2	The Proposed Project interfaces with a number of Foul Water Rising Mains, Water Trunk Mains and Water Mains associated with HVDC trenchless crossings, construction of haul roads and Temporary Attenuation Outfall Pipe crossings.	The Applicant is in active negotiations with a view to addressing the relevant tests  The Applicant will make any necessary submission addressing the statutory tests before the end of the examination.	The Applicant included its proposed bespoke protective provisions in the version of the dDCO submitted at Deadline 5 and negotiations with the statutory undertaker are ongoing.  The Applicant expects to reach agreement during the period of the examination.

Statutory Undertaker	Nature of Undertaking	Plots	Land, rights or apparatus affected	Engagement of s.127 and/or s.138	Status of negotiation
		4/23, 4/25, 4/26, 4/27, 6/1			
Cadent Gas Limited	Gas Transporter	Suffolk: 1/2, 1/4, 1/5, 1/7, 1/8, 1/9, 1/10, 1/11, 1/12, 1/49, 1/50, 1/53, 1/58, 1/64, 1/67, 1/74, 1/88, 1/89, 1/91, 1/92, 1/93, 1/94, 1/95, 1/96, 1/98, 1/99, 2/5, 2/6, 2/7a, 2/7b, 5/14, 5/17, 5/19, 5/27, 5/29, 5/32	The Proposed Project will require an open cutting HVDC crossing underneath Cadent's gas main running north to south in Leiston Road and underneath a gas main under the old railway line. Depending on separation NGET may need to expose Cadent's asset to install cathodic protection. Construction of a temporary bellmouth may interface with apparatus in the verge.	The Applicant is in active negotiations with a view to addressing the relevant tests.  The Applicant will make any necessary submission addressing the statutory tests before the end of the examination.	Subject to internal governance the Applicant has agreed bespoke protective provisions with Cadent. The final version will be included in the dDCO at Deadline 7.
Southern Gas Networks Limited	Gas Transporter	Kent: 3/12, 3/13, 3/14, 3/15, 3/80, 3/87, 3/88, 3/91, 3/92, 3/93, 3/96, 3/100, 4/2, 4/26	2x medium pressure mains interface with the access road and temporary construction compound, and the trenchless HVDC cable requiring monitoring during drilling.	The Applicant is in active negotiations with a view to addressing the relevant tests.  The Applicant will make any necessary submission addressing the statutory tests before the end of the examination.	The Applicant included its proposed bespoke protective provisions in the version of the dDCO submitted at Deadline 5 and negotiations with the statutory undertaker are ongoing.  It is expected that agreement will be reached on these before the end of the examination process as well as on a separate side agreement.
City Fibre Holdings Limited	Telecommunications	Suffolk: 1/1	Fibre cable within the highway.	The Applicant is pursuing negotiations with a view to addressing the relevant tests.	The Applicant will continue to pursue engagement with the statutory undertaker, however, to date there has been no

Statutory Undertaker	Nature of Undertaking	Plots	Land, rights or apparatus affected	Engagement of s.127 and/or s.138	Status of negotiation
				The Applicant will make any necessary submission addressing the statutory tests before the end of the examination.	response from City Fibre Holdings Limited. The Applicant therefore maintains its expectation that the statutory undertaker will rely on the standard protective provisions set out in Schedule 15 of the dDCO.
EXA Infrastructure	Telecommunications	Suffolk: 3/35, 3/37, 3/40, 3/60, 3/61, 3/63, 3/64, 4/3, 4/4	Haul road interface requiring asset protection to be installed and HVDC open cut cable installation requiring appropriate clearance.	The Applicant is in active negotiations with a view to addressing the relevant tests. The Applicant will make any necessary submission addressing the statutory tests before the end of the examination.	At this stage and based on discussions with the statutory undertaker including in relation to the signed SoCG [REP1-090] submitted at deadline 1, the Applicant anticipates that the statutory undertaker will rely on the standard protective set out in Schedule 15 of the dDCO.
National Grid Electricity Transmission plc	Electricity Transmitter	Kent: 1/1, 1/2, 1/3, 1/4, 1/5, 1/7, 1/8, 1/9, 1/10, 1/11, 1/12, 1/13, 1/14, 1/15, 1/16, 1/17, 1/18, 1/20, 1/21, 1/22, 1/49a, 1/69, 1/70, 1/71, 1/72, 1/73, 2/2, 2/3, 2/4, 2/5, 2/6, 2/7, 2/8, 2/10, 2/11, 2/12, 2/13, 2/14, 2/15, 2/16, 2/17, 2/18, 2/19, 2/20, 2/20b, 2/20d, 2/22a. 2/23, 2/24, 2/26, 2/27, 2/28, 2/29, 2/30, 2/31, 2/32, 2/33,	Subsoil fronting land to the southwest of Kings End Cottage, Richborough Road  Interface with existing overhead electricity distribution lines in Kent and Suffolk.	N/A	N/A

Statutory Undertaker	Nature of Undertaking	Plots	Land, rights or apparatus affected	Engagement of s.127 and/or s.138	Status of negotiation
		2/34, 2/35, 2/36, 2/36a, 2/37, 2/38, 2/40, 2/41, 2/42, 2/44, 2/46, 2/47, 2/48, 2/49, 2/50, 2/51, 2/52, 2/53, 2/54, 2/55, 2/56, 2/57, 2/58, 2/59, 2/60, 2/61, 2/62, 2/63, 2/65, 2/66, 2/67, 2/68, 2/69, 2/70, 2/71, 2/72, 2/73, 2/74, 2/75, 2/76, 2/77, 2/81, 2/84, 2/85, 2/91, 2/98, 2/99, 2/105, 3/1, 3/16, 3/17, 3/18, 3/59, 3/60, 3/61, 3/65, 4/10, 4/25			
		Suffolk: 1/49a, 1/69, 1/70, 1/71, 1/72, 1/73, 2/10, 2/11, 2/14, 2/15, 2/16, 2/17, 2/18, 2/19, 2/20, 2/20b, 2/20d, 2/22a, 2/23, 2/24, 2/26, 2/27, 2/28, 2/29, 2/31, 2/32, 2/33, 2/34, 2/35, 2/36, 2/36a, 2/37, 2/38, 2/40, 2/41, 2/99, 3/1, 3/16, 3/17, 3/			

<b>Statutory Undertaker</b>	<b>Nature of Undertaking</b>	<b>Plots</b>	<b>Land, rights or apparatus affected</b>	<b>Engagement of s.127 and/or s.138</b>	<b>Status of negotiation</b>
National Grid Ventures Limited	Electricity Generator	Kent: 3/101, 3/102, 3/104, 5/6, 5/28, 5/29, 5/32, 5/34, 5/39	HVDC crosses underground electricity transmission lines.	The Applicant is in active negotiations with a view to addressing the relevant tests.  The Applicant will make any necessary submission addressing the statutory tests before the end of the examination.	The Applicant is continuing its engagement with the statutory undertaker.  The Applicant maintains its expectation that National Grid Ventures will rely on the standard protective provisions set out in Schedule 15 of the dDCO.
Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd	Railways	Kent: 2/56, 2/65, 2/66, 2/67, 2/69, 2/70, 2/71, 2/72, 2/73, 2/74, 2/75, 2/76, 2/78, 2/79, 2/84, 2/107, 2/108, 2/109, 2/110, 2/111, 2/112, 2/113, 2/114, 2/115, 2/116, 2/117, 2/123, 2/186, 2/187, 2/188, 3/3, 3/80, 3/86, 3/87  Suffolk: 5/27, 5/29, 5/32, 7/22, 7/26, 7/21	Kent: Use of 2x level crossings forming part of the public highway; 1x construction access using an existing level crossing, requiring upgrades to the level crossing and protection to the rails; 400kV overhead lines to be installed over the rail line.  Suffolk: Overbridging of the Benhall Rail Bridge.	The Applicant is in ongoing discussions with Network Rail regarding matters raised in its representation. If agreement cannot be reached before the end of the Examination period, the Applicant will be required to make s127 and s138 submissions.  The Applicant is currently of the view that NRIL is the only party where S.127 is engaged.	The Applicant is continuing to pursue engagement with the statutory undertaker. It has now received NRIL's comments on the Applicant's proposed protective provisions (as included in the version of the dDCO submitted at Deadline 5) and is in the process of reviewing these. NRIL has notified the Applicant that it will also be providing a draft framework agreement but this has not yet been received. The applicant will continue to liaise with NRIL on these draft documents..
OCU Group Limited	Telecommunications	Kent: 2/110, 2/114, 2/116	Interface with underground fibre cables.	The Applicant is pursuing negotiations with a view to addressing the relevant tests.  The Applicant will make any necessary submission addressing the statutory tests before the end of the examination.	The Applicant will continue to pursue engagement with the statutory undertaker as necessary on an ongoing basis.  In the absence of further engagement the Applicant maintains the expectation that the statutory undertaker will rely

Statutory Undertaker	Nature of Undertaking	Plots	Land, rights or apparatus affected	Engagement of s.127 and/or s.138	Status of negotiation
Openreach Limited	Telecommunications	<p>Kent:</p> <p>1/1, 1/2, 2/81, 2/82, 2/83, 3/2, 3/4, 3/5, 3/6, 3/9, 3/11, 3/13, 3/15, 3/16, 3/18, 3/19, 3/22, 3/23, 3/25, 3/26, 3/35, 3/88, 3/90, 3/91, 3/92, 3/97, 3/97a, 3/98a 3/100, 3/101, 3/111, 4/4, 4/10, 4/12, 4/13, 4/18, 4/19, 4/19a 4/21, 4/22, 4/23, 4/24, 4/26, 4/28, 6/1, 6/6</p> <p>Suffolk:</p> <p>1/1, 1/12, 1/14, 1/16, 1/18, 1/25, 1/50, 1/72, 1/74, 1/75, 1/76, 1/81, 2/2, 2/3, 2/4, 2/27, 2/28, 2/31, 2/40, 2/43, 2/44, 2/49, 2/51, 2/52, 2/53, 2/55, 2/73, 2/77, 3/4, 3/5, 3/53, 3/54, 3/55, 3/56, 3/57, 3/58, 3/60, 3/61, 3/62, 3/64, 4/12, 4/13, 4/27, 5/14, 5/17, 5/18, 5/19, 5/22, 6/3, 6/6</p>	<p>Trenchless HVDC cable crossing Openreach ducts and open cut HVDC cable crossing Openreach ducts requiring appropriate clearance and monitoring; haul road and temporary bellmouth operating under existing overhead lines require clearances to be managed and asset protection for ducts.</p>	<p>The Applicant is pursuing further negotiations with a view to addressing the relevant tests.</p> <p>The Applicant will make any necessary submission addressing the statutory tests before the end of the examination.</p>	<p>on the standard protective provisions set out in Schedule 15 of the dDCO.</p> <p>The Applicant will continue to pursue engagement with the statutory undertaker.</p> <p>In the absence of further engagement the Applicant maintains the expectation that the statutory undertaker will rely on the standard protective provisions set out in Schedule 15 of the dDCO.</p>

Statutory Undertaker	Nature of Undertaking	Plots	Land, rights or apparatus affected	Engagement of s.127 and/or s.138	Status of negotiation
Scottish Power (UK) Renewables (SPR) Limited	Electricity Generator	Suffolk: 1/49a, 1/69, 1/70, 1/71, 1/72, 1/73, 2/4, 2/5, 2/6, 2/7a, 2/7b, 2/8, 2/8a, 2/9, 2/10, 2/10a, 2/11, 2/11a, 2/12, 2/13, 2/14, 2/15, 2/15b, 2/16, 2/17, 2/18, 2/20, 2/20b, 2/20c, 2/20d, 2/20e, 2/20f, 2/35, 2/36, 2/37, 2/38, 2/42, 2/46, 2/47, 2/48, 2/57, 2/58, 2/59, 2/60, 2/61, 2/63, 2/64, 2/65, 2/68, 2/69, 2/70, 2/71, 2/72, 2/72a, 2/72b, 2/72c, 2/76, 2/78, 2/78a, 2/78b, 2/79, 2/79a, 2/99, 3/20a, 3/21a, 3/22a	The Proposed Project Order Limits overlap with land owned by SPR UK Ltd	The Applicant is in active negotiations with a view to addressing the relevant tests. The Applicant will make any necessary submission addressing the statutory tests before the end of the examination.	Given the complexity of the commercial interface, and whilst further discussion of the protective provisions between the parties is required, the Applicant did not include its proposed bespoke protective provisions in the version of the dDCO submitted at Deadline 5. However, the Applicant has received comments from SPR on an updated draft of the protective provisions, highlighting areas of interest. It is expected that agreement will be reached before the end of the examination process.
East Anglia ONE North (EA1N)	Electricity Generator	Suffolk: 2/5a, 2/6a, 2/7, 2/11b, 2/12, 2/13, 2/15a, 2/19, 2/20, 2/20a, 2/20c, 2/20d, 2/20e, 2/32, 2/35, 2/36, 2/36a, 2/37, 2/38, 2/42, 2/42a, 2/46, 2/46a, 2/47, 2/47a, 2/48, 2/52, 2/55, 2/57, 2/58, 2/59, 2/60,	The Proposed Project cable ducts and haul roads will cross EA1N export cables.	The Applicant is in active negotiations with a view to addressing the relevant tests. The Applicant will make any necessary submission addressing the statutory tests before the end of the examination.	Given the complexity of the commercial interface, and whilst further discussion of the protective provisions between the parties is required, the Applicant did not include its proposed bespoke protective provisions in the version of the dDCO submitted at Deadline 5. However, the Applicant has received comments from SPR on an updated draft of the

Statutory Undertaker	Nature of Undertaking	Plots	Land, rights or apparatus affected	Engagement of s.127 and/or s.138	Status of negotiation
		2/61, 2/63, 2/64, 2/65, 2/68, 2/69, 2/70, 2/71, 2/72, 2/99, 3/20a, 3/21a, 3/22a			protective provisions, highlighting areas of interest. It is expected that agreement will be reached before the end of the examination process.
East Anglia TWO (EA2)	Electricity Generator	Suffolk: 2/5a, 2/6a, 2/7, 2/11b, 2/12, 2/13, 2/15a, 2/19, 2/20, 2/20a, 2/20c, 2/20d, 2/20e, 2/32, 2/35, 2/36, 2/36a, 2/37, 2/38, 2/42, 2/42a, 2/46, 2/46a, 2/47, 2/47a, 2/48, 2/52, 2/55, 2/57, 2/58, 2/59, 2/60, 2/61, 2/63, 2/64, 2/65, 2/68, 2/69, 2/70, 2/71, 2/72, 2/99, 3/20a, 3/21a, 3/22a	The Proposed Project cable ducts and haul roads will cross EA2 export cables.	The Applicant is in active negotiations with a view to addressing the relevant tests. The Applicant will make any necessary submission addressing the statutory tests before the end of the examination	Given the complexity of the commercial interface, and whilst further discussion of the protective provisions between the parties is required, the Applicant did not include its proposed bespoke protective provisions in the version of the dDCO submitted at Deadline 5. However, the Applicant has received comments from SPR on an updated draft of the protective provisions, highlighting areas of interest. It is expected that agreement will be reached before the end of the examination process.
Thanet OFTO Limited	Electricity Generator	Kent: 5/1, 5/6, 5/8, 5/9, 5/17, 5/25, 5/26, 5/27, 5/28, 5/29, 5/30, 5/30a, 5/31, 5/32, 5/33, 5/34, 5/35, 5/36, 5/37, 5/39, 5/40, 5/41, 5/42, 5/43, 5/44, 5/45, 5/46, 5/47, 5/48,	Easement crossing required.	The Applicant is in active negotiations with a view to addressing the relevant tests. The Applicant will make any necessary submission addressing the statutory tests before the end of the examination.	At this stage the Applicant maintains its expectation that Thanet OFTO Limited will rely on the standard protective provisions set out in Schedule 15 of the dDCO.

Statutory Undertaker	Nature of Undertaking	Plots	Land, rights or apparatus affected	Engagement of s.127 and/or s.138	Status of negotiation
UK Power Network Services (South East) Limited	Electricity Transmitter	Kent: 1/2, 1/5, 1/7, 1/14, 1/18, 1/19, 2/12, 2/15, 2/27, 2/35, 2/36, 2/39, 2/40, 2/41, 2/42, 2/45, 2/49, 2/50, 2/51, 2/54, 2/55, 2/60, 2/62, 2/63, 2/64, 2/65, 2/72, 2/73, 2/83, 2/84, 2/85, 2/86, 2/145, 2/146, 2/149, 2/150, 2/151, 2/152, 2/155, 2/156, 2/158, 2/159, 2/168, 2/173, 2/174, 2/180, 3/2, 3/7, 3/8, 3/42, 3/43, 3/46, 3/47, 3/48, 3/52, 3/53, 3/54, 3/55, 3/56, 3/57, 3/58, 3/59, 3/60, 3/61, 3/62, 3/65, 3/74, 3/75, 3/77, 3/78, 3/79, 3/80, 3/82, 3/84, 3/85, 3/87, 3/88, 3/90, 3/91, 3/92, 3/95, 3/96, 3/97, 3/97a, 3/111, 4/5, 4/6, 4/10, 4/11, 4/13, 4/18, 4/19, 4/21, 4/22, 4/23, 4/24, 4/25, 4/26, 4/27, 6/1, 6/3, 6/4, 6/5, 6/6. Suffolk:	Interfaces requiring diversion of underground and overhead lines, or sufficient clearance during construction	The Applicant is in active negotiations with a view to addressing the relevant tests. The Applicant will make any necessary submission addressing the statutory tests before the end of the examination.	The Applicant is awaiting bespoke protective provisions from the statutory undertaker, who have indicated that these will be issued imminently. Upon receipt the Applicant will review the proposed protective provisions and continue to engage with the statutory undertaker. It is anticipated that bespoke protective provisions will be submitted at Deadline 7.  The Applicant is considering a side agreement received from UKPN on 10/04/2026 seeking a Deed of Grant and an Asset Protection Agreement.

Statutory Undertaker	Nature of Undertaking	Plots	Land, rights or apparatus affected	Engagement of s.127 and/or s.138	Status of negotiation
		1/11, 1/25, 1/49a, 1/69, 1/70, 2/1, 2/3, 2/5, 2/6, 2/6a, 2/7, 2/7b, 2/8, 2/8a, 2/9, 2/11a, 2/12, 2/14, 2/15, 2/15a, 2/19, 2/20, 2/20a, 2/20c, 2/20d, 2/24, 2/25, 2/36, 2/37, 2/38, 2/42, 2/42a, 2/43, 2/44, 2/46, 2/46a, 2/55, 2/73, 2/77, 2/84, 2/99, 2/100, 2/102, 2/103, 2/104, 3/2, 3/5, 3/10, 3/11, 3/12, 3/14, 3/15, 3/16, 3/19, 3/20, 3/21, 3/22, 3/39, 3/40, 3/41, 3/54, 3/62, 3/63, 3/64, 4/5, 4/7, 4/16, 4/18, 4/27, 5/14, 5/17, 5/18, 5/19, 5/21, 5/22			
The River Stour (Kent) Internal Drainage Board	Internal Drainage Board	2/84, 2/108, 2/111, 2/112, 2/113, 2/114, 2/117, 2/118, 2/119, 2/120, 2/123, 2/123, 2/132, 2/135, 2/136, 2/181, 2/184, 2/186, 3/1, 3/2, 3/58, 3/62, 3/64, 3/66, 3/7, 3/99, 4/9	Land drain	<p>The Applicant is in active negotiations with a view to addressing the relevant tests.</p> <p>The Applicant will make any necessary submission addressing the statutory tests before the end of the examination.</p>	<p>The Applicant is not seeking to disapply the Land Drainage Act 1991, therefore bespoke protective provisions will not be required. However the Applicant will continue to engage with the statutory undertaker on an ongoing basis.</p>

<b>Statutory Undertaker</b>	<b>Nature of Undertaking</b>	<b>Plots</b>	<b>Land, rights or apparatus affected</b>	<b>Engagement of s.127 and/or s.138</b>	<b>Status of negotiation</b>
Virgin Media Limited	Telecommunications	Suffolk: 4/13, 5/14, 5/17, 5/19	Apparatus within verge and carriageway at Leiston Road - Lower cabled ducts in grass verge to below proposed construction depth of the new haul road.	The Applicant is in active negotiations with a view to addressing the relevant tests. The Applicant will make any necessary submission addressing the statutory tests before the end of the examination.	The Applicant will continue to engage with the statutory undertaker on an ongoing basis. At this stage and based on discussions with the statutory undertaker including in relation to the draft SoCG [REP1-098] submitted at deadline 1, the Applicant anticipates that the statutory undertaker will rely on the standard protective set out in Schedule 15 of the dDCO.
Vodafone Limited	Telecommunications	Suffolk: 4/13, 5/14, 5/17, 5/19	Vodafone assets in Leiston Road	The Applicant is in active negotiations with a view to addressing the relevant tests. The Applicant will make any necessary submission addressing the statutory tests before the end of the examination.	The Applicant will continue to engage with the statutory undertaker on an ongoing basis. At this stage and based on discussions with the statutory undertaker including in relation to the draft SoCG [REP1-099] submitted at deadline 1, the Applicant anticipates that the statutory undertaker will rely on the standard protective set out in Schedule 15 of the dDCO.

## 2.4 Protective Provisions and Side Agreements

**Table 2.2: Protective Provisions and Side Agreements – Deadline 6 Update**

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Status of protective provisions</b>	<b>Scope and purpose of any relevant side agreement</b>	<b>Current position</b>	<b>Progress since last update</b>
Anglian Water	Bespoke protective provisions have been agreed.	The Applicant does not anticipate that a side agreement will be required with Anglian Water.	Agreed.	Subject to internal governance the Applicant has agreed bespoke protective provisions in principle with Anglian Water. The final version will be included in the dDCO at Deadline 7.
Cadent Gas Limited	Bespoke protective provisions have been agreed.	The parties have reached agreement on terms relating to insurance and security provision.	Agreed.	Subject to internal governance the Applicant has agreed in principle bespoke protective provisions and a side agreement with Cadent. The final version of these protective provisions will be included in the dDCO at Deadline 7.
Kent County Council (Highways Authority)	The parties are in discussion and are seeking to reach agreement on bespoke protective provisions.	The Applicant does not anticipate that a side agreement will be required with Kent County Council (as highway authority).	Under negotiation	The Applicant is continuing its engagement with Kent County Council. The proposed protective provisions for the benefit of the local highways authorities were included in the version of the dDCO submitted at Deadline 5, although these are not yet agreed by Kent County Council.
Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd (NRIL)	The parties are in discussion and are seeking to reach	A Basic Asset Protection Agreement is in place. The Applicant understands that a	Under negotiation	The Applicant is continuing to pursue engagement with NRIL. It has now received NRIL's

Organisation	Status of protective provisions	Scope and purpose of any relevant side agreement	Current position	Progress since last update
	agreement on bespoke protective provisions.	Framework Agreement may be required and is awaiting a draft of this document.		comments on the Applicant's proposed protective provisions (as included in the version of the dDCO submitted at Deadline 5) and is in the process of reviewing these. NRIL has notified the Applicant that it will also be providing a draft framework agreement but this has not yet been received. The applicant will continue to liaise with NRIL on these draft documents.
Southern Gas Networks Limited (SGN)	The parties are in discussion and are seeking to reach agreement on bespoke protective provisions.	There are ongoing negotiations relating to a side agreement, likely to cover insurance and security provision.	Under negotiation	<p>The Applicant is continuing its engagement with SGN and is close to agreement on a set of protective provisions and side agreement.</p> <p>The Applicant included its proposed bespoke protective provisions in the version of the dDCO submitted at Deadline 5, although these are not yet agreed by the statutory undertaker.</p> <p>It is expected that agreement on these draft documents will be reached before the end of the examination process.</p>
Suffolk County Council (Highways Authority) (SCC)	The parties are in discussion and are seeking to reach agreement on bespoke protective provisions.	The Applicant does not anticipate that a side agreement will be required with Suffolk County Council (as highway authority).	Under negotiation	The Applicant has been continuing its engagement with SCC. The proposed protective provisions for the benefit of the local highways authorities are included in the version of the dDCO submitted at Deadline 5,

Organisation	Status of protective provisions	Scope and purpose of any relevant side agreement	Current position	Progress since last update
				although these are not yet agreed by SCC. The Applicant expects to reach agreement during the period of the examination.
Dock and Harbour Authority (Harwich Haven Authority) (HHA)	Bespoke protective provision may no longer be required with the dDCO and DML including provisions that satisfy the HHA's requirements.	The parties are in ongoing discussions regarding a side agreement relating to protections around project vessels with Restricted Ability to Manoeuvre (RAM) and under keel clearance.	Under negotiation	The Applicant is continuing its engagement with HHA regarding a side agreement in place of bespoke protective provisions
Port of London Authority (PLA)	The parties are in discussion and are close to reaching agreement on bespoke protective provisions.	The Applicant does not anticipate that a side agreement will be required with PLA.	Under negotiation	. The Applicant included its proposed bespoke protective provisions in the version of the dDCO submitted at Deadline 5 and is continuing its engagement with PLA. An updated draft of the protective provisions has been issued to PLA and comments have now been received with outstanding matters substantially agreed. It is expected that agreement will be reached before the end of the examination process.
London Gateway Port Limited (LGPL)	The parties are in discussion and are seeking to reach agreement on bespoke protective provisions.	The Applicant does not anticipate that a side agreement will be required with London Gateway Port.	Under negotiation	The Applicant is continuing its engagement with London Gateway Port. The Applicant has included its proposed bespoke protective provisions in the version of the dDCO submitted at Deadline 5 although these are not yet

Organisation	Status of protective provisions	Scope and purpose of any relevant side agreement	Current position	Progress since last update
Scottish Power (UK) Renewables Limited (East Anglia ONE North (EA1N) and East Anglia TWO (EA2))	The parties are in discussion and are seeking to reach agreement on bespoke protective provisions.	<p>SPR has indicated that a Crossing Agreement will be required.</p> <p>There is a proposed suite of commercial agreements between NGET and SPR which are in train, addressing the various physical and commercial interfaces.</p>	Under negotiation	<p>agreed. LGPL have now returned comments on these protective provisions.</p> <p>It is expected that agreement will be reached before the end of the examination process.</p> <p>.</p> <p>Given the complexity of the commercial interface, and whilst further discussion of the protective provisions between the parties is required, the Applicant did not include its proposed bespoke protective provisions in the version of the dDCO submitted at Deadline 5. However, the Applicant has received comments from SPR on an updated draft of the protective provisions, highlighting areas of interest.</p> <p>It is expected that agreement will be reached before the end of the examination process.</p>
Northumbrian Water Group Limited (NWG) (Essex and Suffolk Water)	The parties are in discussion and are close to reaching agreement on bespoke protective provisions.	An Asset Protection Agreement is under negotiation relating to the Applicant's compliance with the terms of the protective provisions.	Under negotiation	<p>The Applicant included its proposed bespoke protective provisions in the version of the dDCO submitted at Deadline 5 and through continued engagement with NWG is narrowing down outstanding issues, although the protective provisions are not yet agreed.</p> <p>It is expected that agreement will be reached before the end</p>

Organisation	Status of protective provisions	Scope and purpose of any relevant side agreement	Current position	Progress since last update
Sizewell C Ltd (SZC)	The Applicant is pursuing further discussion in order to reach agreement.	N/A.	Requested	<p>of the examination process. There are also ongoing negotiations in relation to an asset protection agreement.</p> <p>The Applicant continues to pursue further discussions with SZC to determine their requirements, however, SZC has to date not provided a further response regarding protective provisions. In any event, they would benefit from the standard provisions in respect of electricity undertakers in Schedule 15 of the dDCO.</p>
Southern Water Services Limited	The parties are in discussion and are seeking to reach agreement on bespoke protective provisions.	The Applicant will consider any requests from Southern Water in respect of a side agreement.	Under negotiation	<p>The Applicant included its proposed bespoke protective provisions in the version of the dDCO submitted at Deadline 5 and negotiations with Southern Water are ongoing. The Applicant expects to reach agreement during the period of the examination.</p>
BT (British Telecommunications plc) (UK to Netherlands cable; UK to Belgium cable; Farland cable; Mercator cable)	The Applicant anticipates that BT will rely on the standard protective provisions set out in Schedule 15 of the dDCO.	BT has indicated that a Crossing Agreement (out of service and in service) will be required.	Under negotiation	<p>The Applicant continues to pursue further discussions with BT to determine their requirements. In any event, they would benefit from the standard provisions in respect of telecoms operators.</p>

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Status of protective provisions</b>	<b>Scope and purpose of any relevant side agreement</b>	<b>Current position</b>	<b>Progress since last update</b>
UK Power Networks Limited (UKPN)	The parties are in discussion and are seeking to reach agreement on bespoke protective provisions.	The Applicant received a side agreement from UKPN on 10/04/2026 seeking a Deed of Grant and an Asset Protection Agreement.	Under negotiation	<p>The Applicant is awaiting bespoke protective provisions from UKPN, who have indicated that these will be issued imminently. Upon receipt the Applicant will review the proposed protective provisions and continue to engage with the statutory undertaker. It is anticipated that bespoke protective provisions will be submitted at Deadline 7 if required.</p> <p>In any event, at present, UKPN would benefit from the standard provisions in respect of electricity undertakers in Schedule 15 of the dDCO.</p>
National Grid Electricity Transmission plc	National Grid Electricity Transmission plc will benefit from the standard protective provisions set out in Schedule 15 of the dDCO.	N/A	N/A	N/A
City Fibre Holdings Limited	The Applicant anticipates that City Fibre Holdings Limited will rely on the standard protective provisions set out in Schedule 15 of the dDCO.	N/A	City Fibre Holdings Limited did not submit a Relevant Representation and has not requested any further protection.	The Applicant has sought further engagement with City Fibre Holdings Limited with no response to date.
OCU Group Limited	The Applicant anticipates that OCU Group Limited will rely on the standard protective provisions set out in Schedule 15 of the dDCO.	N/A	OCU Group Limited did not submit a Relevant Representation and has not requested any further protection.	The Applicant has sought further engagement with OCU Group Limited with no response to date.

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Status of protective provisions</b>	<b>Scope and purpose of any relevant side agreement</b>	<b>Current position</b>	<b>Progress since last update</b>
Openreach	The Applicant anticipates that Openreach will rely on the standard protective provisions set out in Schedule 15 of the dDCO.	N/A	Openreach did not submit a Relevant Representation and has not requested any further protection.	The Applicant has sought further engagement with Openreach with no response to date
Thanet OFTO Limited	The Applicant anticipates that the Thanet OFTO will rely on the standard protective provisions set out in Schedule 15 of the dDCO.	Thanet OFTO has indicated that a Crossing Agreement will be required.	Under negotiation	The Applicant is maintaining ongoing discussions with Thanet OFTO Limited regarding a Crossing Agreement.
Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm Limited	The Applicant anticipates that Five Estuaries will rely on the standard protective provisions set out in Schedule 15 of the dDCO.	Five Estuaries has indicated that a Crossing Agreement will be required.	Under negotiation	The Applicant is maintaining ongoing discussions with Five Estuaries and substantial progress has been made on negotiation of a Crossing Agreement.
North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Limited	The Applicant anticipates that North Falls will rely on the standard protective provisions set out in Schedule 15 of the dDCO.	North Falls has indicated that a Crossing Agreement will be required.	Under negotiation	The Applicant will pursue further discussions with North Falls to determine their requirements.
National Grid Ventures (NGV) Lion Link	The Applicant anticipates that NGV will rely on the standard protective provisions set out in Schedule 15 of the dDCO.	The Applicant does not currently anticipate that a side agreement will be necessary.	N/A	Discussions between the parties are ongoing. The engagement is reflected in the draft SoCG [REP1-102] between the parties submitted at deadline 1 and the Coordination Document [APP-363] which formed part of the original application
EXA Infrastructure	The Applicant anticipates that EXA Infrastructure will rely on the standard protective	N/A	EXA Infrastructure did not submit a Relevant Representation and has not	The Applicant is continuing its engagement with EXA Infrastructure.

Organisation	Status of protective provisions	Scope and purpose of any relevant side agreement	Current position	Progress since last update
	provisions set out in Schedule 15 of the dDCO.		requested any further protection.	At this stage and based on discussions with the statutory undertaker including in relation to the signed SoCG [REP1-090] submitted at deadline 1, the Applicant anticipates that the statutory undertaker will rely on the standard protective set out in Schedule 15 of the dDCO.
BritNed Development Limited	The Applicant anticipates that BritNed Development Limited will rely on the standard protective provisions set out in Schedule 15 of the dDCO.	BritNed has indicated that a Crossing Agreement will be required.	Under negotiation	The Applicant will pursue further discussions with BritNed to determine their requirements.
Virgin Media	The Applicant anticipates that the Virgin Media will rely on the standard protective provisions set out in Schedule 15 of the dDCO.	N/A	Virgin Media did not submit a Relevant Representation and has not requested any further protection.	The Applicant will continue to engage with Virgin Media, the outcomes of which will be reflected in the next version of the draft SoCG [REP1-098] between the parties, .
Vodafone	The Applicant anticipates that the Vodafone will rely on the standard protective provisions set out in Schedule 15 of the dDCO.	N/A	Vodafone did not submit a Relevant Representation and has not requested any further protection.	The Applicant will continue to engage with the Vodafone, the outcomes of which will be reflected in the next version of the draft SoCG [REP1-099] between the parties.
NeuConnect Britain Ltd	The Applicant anticipates that the stakeholder will rely on the standard protective provisions set out in Schedule 15 of the dDCO.	A Crossing Agreement is expected to be required.	Under negotiation	The Applicant will continue to pursue further discussions with NeuConnect to determine their requirements.

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Status of protective provisions</b>	<b>Scope and purpose of any relevant side agreement</b>	<b>Current position</b>	<b>Progress since last update</b>
Gridlink Interconnector Limited	The Applicant anticipates that the stakeholder will rely on the standard protective provisions set out in Schedule 15 of the dDCO.	Gridlink Interconnector Limited has indicated a Crossing Agreement will be required.	Under negotiation	The Applicant is maintaining ongoing discussion with Gridlink. Current discussions are focusing on the specific crossing location.
Lumen Technologies UK Limited (Pan European Crossing cable; Tangerine cable)	The Applicant anticipates that the stakeholder will rely on the standard protective provisions set out in Schedule 15 of the dDCO.	A Crossing Agreement is expected to be required.	Under negotiation	The Applicant will continue to engage with Lumen Technologies UK Limited to determine their requirements. A draft Crossing Agreement is under review.
EXA Infrastructure (Q&E North Cable)*	The Applicant anticipates that the stakeholder will rely on the standard protective provisions set out in Schedule 15 of the dDCO.	A Crossing Agreement is expected to be required.	Under negotiation	The Applicant is continuing to engage with EXA Infrastructure regarding marine interfaces on an ongoing basis.
Blue Transmission London Array Limited	The Applicant anticipates that the stakeholder will rely on the standard protective provisions set out in Schedule 15 of the dDCO.	The Applicant does not anticipate that a side agreement will be required with Blue Transmission London Array.	No action required	N/A
Riveroak Strategic Partners (RSP) (authorised undertaker for the Manston Airport Development Consent Order 2022)		RSP has outlined heads of terms for a side agreement covering works, access and damage to its pipeline that interfaces with the Proposed Project.	Under negotiation.	The Applicant has issued a draft side agreement to Riveroak Strategic Partners and will continue to engage with them.
TC East Anglia One OFTO Limited (Transmission Investment – EA1 cable)	The Applicant anticipates that the stakeholder will rely on the standard protective provisions set out in Schedule 15 of the dDCO.	A Crossing Agreement is expected to be required.	Under negotiation	The Applicant will continue to engage with TC East Anglia One OFTO Limited to determine their requirements.

Organisation	Status of protective provisions	Scope and purpose of any relevant side agreement	Current position	Progress since last update
Scottish Power (UK) Renewables Limited (SPR) East Anglia Three	The parties are in discussion and are seeking to reach agreement on bespoke protective provisions.	A Crossing Agreement is required.	Under negotiation	Given the complexity of the commercial interface, and whilst further discussion of the protective provisions between the parties is required, the Applicant did not include its proposed bespoke protective provisions in the version of the dDCO submitted at Deadline 5. However, the Applicant has received comments from SPR on an updated draft of the protective provisions, highlighting areas of interest. It is expected that agreement will be reached before the end of the examination process.
Nemo Link Limited	The Applicant anticipates that the stakeholder will rely on the standard protective provisions set out in Schedule 15 of the dDCO.	A Crossing Agreement is required.	Under negotiation	The Applicant will continue to engage with Nemo. The Applicant has received a draft Crossing Agreement for review.

\*Denotes a change of ownership

National Grid plc  
National Grid House,  
Warwick Technology Park,  
Gallows Hill, Warwick.  
CV34 6DA United Kingdom

Registered in England and Wales  
No. 4031152  
[nationalgrid.com](http://nationalgrid.com)