



National
Trust

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My Reference:

Date: 30 April 2026

BY EMAIL ONLY

SouthEastAngliaLink@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Dear Sir/Madam,

Sea Link Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) National Trust Response – Deadline 7

The National Trust and the Applicant's have continued to have discussions to secure satisfactory outcomes for both parties in relation to the Statement of Common Ground (SoCG).

As part of these discussions the National Trust asked "that the applicant to fund a post-construction bird and habitat monitoring programme for five years following construction. It should cover both the saltmarsh and the offshore intertidal".

The applicant listed various things that they are committing to monitoring e.g. River Stour migration, and that "additionally an Application Document 9.140 In-Principle Monitoring Plan and has been submitted at Deadline 6". In response the National Trust made the following comment in reply and to which we have yet to receive anything further from the applicant.

"Having reviewed the In-Principle Monitoring Plan, we are disappointed that there remains no provision for intertidal and subtidal habitat and morphological monitoring with the exception of monitoring, with the exception of monitoring associated with managing the risk to NG's asset (i.e. the buried cable) - which could involve a very narrow corridor of monitoring and would only focus on seabed levels/Stour channel movement.

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Whilst we recognise that due to the EIA conclusion that impacts are of negligible to minor adverse significance only, monitoring is not a statutory requirement, we would advocate post-construction monitoring (to compliment the pre-construction surveys), particularly as the saltmarsh and mudflat are priority habitats in a SSSI. We also feel that this would provide more confidence in the light of issues raised by the Nemo link interconnector scheme. As we have highlighted previously collection of such data (i.e. both pre and post – construction data sets) would also have a high scientific value in demonstrating the recovery time of these critical ecosystems.

Whilst there is a commitment to a potential provision of a Benthic Mitigation Plan, we note that this will only be required of benthic habitats of principal importance are identified at pre-construction”.

It is hoped that the Applicant is able to provide confidence to the National Trust that these the aforementioned safeguards are put in place to protect the very important natural resource of Pegwell Bay.

Yours sincerely,

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Planning Adviser.