

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

29 April 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 7 Cover Letter

This cover letter has been prepared by National Grid (the Applicant) to accompany their Deadline 7 submission made on 29 April 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 7.

Table 1: documents submitted at Deadline 7

Doc Ref	Document Title	Rev	Reason for Submission
Volume 3			
3.1 (J)	draft Development Consent Order (Clean, Tracked and, Word)	J	Update in alignment with Annex E of Rule 6 [PD-010] .
3.2 (I)	Explanatory Memorandum (Clean and Tracked)	I	Update in alignment with Annex E of Rule 6 [PD-010] .
3.3 (B)	Validation Report	B	As required in the ExA's Rule 6 Letter [PD-010] .
Volume 4			
4.2 (J)	Statement of Reasons (Clean and Tracked)	J	Update in alignment with Annex E of Rule 6 [PD-010] .
4.2.2 (H)	Statement of Reasons Appendix B Schedule of Negotiations with Land Interests (Clean and Tracked)	H	Update in alignment with Annex E of Rule 6 [PD-010] .
4.3 (H)	Book of Reference (Clean and Tracked)	H	Update in alignment with Annex E of Rule 6 [PD-010] .
Volume 6			
6.2.1.4 (E)	Part 1 Introduction Chapter 4 Description of the Proposed Project (Clean and Tracked)	E	Update to clarify emergency works.
6.2.2.2 (F)	Part 2 Suffolk Chapter 2 Ecology and Biodiversity (Clean and Tracked)	F	Minor updates.
6.2.2.10 (C)	Part 2 Suffolk Chapter 10 Socio-Economics, Recreation and Tourism (Clean and Tracked)	C	Update in response to RSPB comments.
6.2.3.2 (H)	Part 3 Kent Chapter 2 Ecology and Biodiversity (Clean and Tracked)	H	Update in response to Natural England comments.
6.2.4.1 (H)	Part 4 Marine Chapter 1 Physical Environment (Clean and Tracked)	H	Update in response to Natural England comments.
6.2.4.2 (G)	Part 4 Marine Chapter 2 Benthic Ecology (Clean and Tracked)	G	Update in response to Natural England comments and Deadline 6 feedback.

6.2.4.4 (J)	Part 4 Marine Chapter 4 Marine Mammals (Clean and Tracked)	J	Update to incorporate Kent Wildlife Trust, Kent Dolphine Report into baselines.
6.2.4.5 (E)	Part 4 Marine Chapter 5 Marine Ornithology (Clean and Tracked)	E	Updated version provided at Deadline 7.
6.2.4.7 (F)	Part 4 Marine Chapter 7 Shipping and Navigation (Clean and Tracked)	F	Update to reflect new wording of REAC commitments SN12 and SN15.
6.3.2.2.B (D)	ES Appendix 2.2.B Suffolk Wintering Bird Report (Clean and Tracked)	D	Update to reflect comments made by Natural England at Deadline 6.
6.3.2.2.C (C)	ES Appendix 2.2.C Suffolk Breeding Bird Report (Clean and Tracked)	C	Minor updates.
6.3.4.7.A (F)	ES Appendix 4.7.A Navigational Risk Assessment (Clean and Tracked)	F	Update to reflect new wording of REAC commitments SN12 and SN15.
6.4.2.1 (B)	ES Figures Suffolk Landscape and Visual Part 1 of 7 (Clean and Tracked)	B	Updated version provided at Deadline 7.
6.4.2.1 (B)	ES Figures Suffolk Landscape and Visual Part 7 of 7 (Clean and Tracked)	B	Updated version provided at Deadline 7.
6.4.2.2.B (B)	ES Figures Suffolk Wintering Bird Report 2022-23 and 2023-24 Part 1 of 2 (Clean and Tracked)	B	Updated version provided at Deadline 7.
6.6 (I)	Habitats Regulations Assessment Report (Clean and Tracked)	I	Update to reflect comments made by Natural England at Deadline 6.
6.11 (F)	Marine Conservation Zone Assessment (Clean and Tracked)	F	Update in response to Natural England comments and Deadline 6 feedback.
Volume 7			
7.4 (G)	Statement of Commonality (Clean and Tracked)	G	Update for final submission of SoCGs.
7.4.3	Statement of Common Ground Historic England	D	Final update for Deadline 7 alignment with Annex E of Rule 6 [PD-010] .

7.4.4 (E)	Statement of Common Ground Marine Management Organisation (Clean and Tracked)	E	Final update for Deadline 7 alignment with Annex E of Rule 6 [PD-010] .
7.4.5 (E)	Statement of Common Ground Thanet District Council (Clean and Tracked)	E	Final update for Deadline 7 alignment with Annex E of Rule 6 [PD-010] .
7.4.6 (E)	Statement of Common Ground Dover District Council (Clean and Tracked)	E	Final update for Deadline 7 alignment with Annex E of Rule 6 [PD-010] .
7.4.7 (E)	Statement of Common Ground Kent County Council (Clean and Tracked)	E	Final update for Deadline 7 alignment with Annex E of Rule 6 [PD-010] .
7.4.9 (D)	Statement of Common Ground Harwich Haven Authority (Clean and Tracked)	D	Final update for Deadline 7 alignment with Annex E of Rule 6 [PD-010] .
7.4.10 (E)	Statement of Common Ground Maritime and Coastguard Agency (Clean and Tracked)	E	Final update for Deadline 7 alignment with Annex E of Rule 6 [PD-010] .
7.4.11 (E)	Statement of Common Ground Port of London Authority (Clean and Tracked)	E	Final update for Deadline 7 alignment with Annex E of Rule 6 [PD-010] .
7.4.12 (E)	Statement of Common Ground Trinity House (Clean and Tracked)	E	Final update for Deadline 7 alignment with Annex E of Rule 6 [PD-010] .
7.4.13 (E)	Statement of Common Ground UK Chamber of Shipping (Clean and Tracked)	E	Final update for Deadline 7 alignment with Annex E of Rule 6 [PD-010] .
7.4.14 (C)	Statement of Common Ground Sandwich Port and Haven Commissioners (Clean and Tracked)	C	Final update for Deadline 7 alignment with Annex E of Rule 6 [PD-010] .
7.4.15 (C)	Statement of Common Ground Port of Ramsgate (Clean and Tracked)	C	Final update for Deadline 7 alignment with Annex E of Rule 6 [PD-010] .
7.5.1.1 (F)	Outline Construction Traffic Management and Travel Plan - Suffolk (Clean and Tracked)	F	Update in response to feedback from Suffolk Highways.

7.5.1.2 (C)	Outline Construction Traffic Management and Travel Plan - Kent (Clean and Tracked)	C	Update in response to ExA's Rule 17 - Request for further Information [PD-025] .
7.5.2 (E)	Outline Offshore Construction Environmental Management Plan (Clean and Tracked)	E	Update to align with changes within Outline CSIP and REAC.
7.5.3 (E)	Outline Onshore Construction Environmental Management Plan (Clean and Tracked)	E	Update to commitments.
7.5.4.1 (C)	Outline Onshore Overarching Written Scheme of Investigation (OWSI) - Suffolk (Clean and Tracked)	C	Update to reflect comments from Suffolk Local Authorities.
7.5.4.2 (E)	Outline Onshore Overarching Written Scheme of Investigation (OWSI) - Kent (Clean and Tracked)	E	Update to reflect comments from Historic England and Kent County Council.
7.5.6.1 (F)	Outline Air Quality Management Plan - Suffolk (Clean and Tracked)	F	Minor updates.
7.5.6.2 (D)	Outline Air Quality Management Plan - Kent (Clean and Tracked)	D	Minor updates.
7.5.7.1 (E)	Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan - Suffolk (Clean and Tracked)	E	Update to reflect amended wording around NGV and LionLink.
7.5.7.2 (E)	Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan - Kent (Clean and Tracked)	E	Update to reflect comments made by Natural England at Deadline 6.
7.5.11 (E)	Outline Marine Mammal Mitigation Plan (Clean and Tracked)	E	Minor changes to update commitments.
7.8 (D)	Red Throated Diver Protocol (Clean and Tracked)	D	Update in response to ExA's Rule 17 - Request for further Information [PD-025] .
7.12.1	Design Principles – Suffolk	D	Updated following discussions with the Host Authority
7.12.2	Design Principles – Kent	D	Updated following discussions with the Host Authority
Volume 9			
9.7 (H)	Applicant's Schedule of Changes to the Draft	H	Update to reflect changes in DCO, and addition of appendix

	Development Consent Order (Clean and Tracked)		to explain why certain ExA suggestions for the DCO are not being used.
9.12 (D)	Outline Navigation and Installation Plan (Clean and Tracked)	D	Update to include new wording of commitments SN12 and SN15, and to update section on approach to RAM operations in low visibility conditions.
9.13 (E)	Pegwell Bay Construction Method Technical Note (Clean)	E	Update to remove reference to bog mats in response to comments from Natural England.
9.15 (B)	Statement of Common Ground East Suffolk Council (Clean and Tracked)	B	Final update for Deadline 7 alignment with Annex E of Rule 6 [PD-010] .
9.16 (H)	Lands Rights Tracker	H	Update in alignment with Annex E of Rule 6 [PD-010] .
9.17.1 (C)	Suffolk Drainage Strategy (Clean and Tracked)	C	Update to remove TC-40-ATPN.
9.30 (B)	Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) Survey Results – Suffolk (Clean and Tracked)	B	Updated figures provided.
9.31 (C)	Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) Survey Results – Kent (Clean and Tracked)	C	Errata in ExA's Rule 17 - Request for further Information [PD-025] .
9.38.8	Deadline 7 Cover Letter	A	This document.
9.42 (B)	Statement of Common Ground National Landscape Partnership (Clean and Tracked)	B	Final update for Deadline 7 alignment with Annex E of Rule 6 [PD-010] .
9.43 (D)	Statement of Common Ground Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (Clean and Tracked)	D	Final update for Deadline 7 alignment with Annex E of Rule 6 [PD-010] .
9.46 (C)	Statement of Common Ground Anglian Water (Clean and Tracked)	C	Final update for Deadline 7 alignment with Annex E of Rule 6 [PD-010] .
9.51 (B)	Statement of Common Ground Cadent Gas Limited (Clean and Tracked)	B	Final update for Deadline 7 alignment with Annex E of Rule 6 [PD-010] .

9.52 (B)	Statement of Common Ground East Suffolk Water Management Board (Clean and Tracked)	B	Final update for Deadline 7 alignment with Annex E of Rule 6 [PD-010] .
9.56 (B)	Statement of Common Ground Network Rail (Clean and Tracked)	A	Final version for Deadline 7 alignment with Annex E of Rule 6 [PD-010] .
9.57 (C)	Statement of Common Ground Northumbrian Water Group (Clean)	C	Final update for Deadline 7 alignment with Annex E of Rule 6 [PD-010] .
9.58 (B)	Statement of Common Ground River Stour Internal Drainage Board (Clean and Tracked)	B	Final update for Deadline 7 alignment with Annex E of Rule 6 [PD-010] .
9.59 (B)	Statement of Common Ground Scottish Power Renewables (Clean and Tracked)	B	Final update for Deadline 7 alignment with Annex E of Rule 6 [PD-010] .
9.60 (B)	Statement of Common Ground Sizewell C (Clean and Tracked)	B	Final update for Deadline 7 alignment with Annex E of Rule 6 [PD-010] .
9.61 (B)	Statement of Common Ground Suffolk Constabulary (Clean and Tracked)	B	Final update for Deadline 7 alignment with Annex E of Rule 6 [PD-010] .
9.62 (C)	Statement of Common Ground UK Power Networks (Clean and Tracked)	C	Final update for Deadline 7 alignment with Annex E of Rule 6 [PD-010] .
9.63 (B)	Statement of Common Ground Virgin Media (Clean and Tracked)	B	Final update for Deadline 7 alignment with Annex E of Rule 6 [PD-010] .
9.64 (B)	Statement of Common Ground Vodafone (Clean and Tracked)	B	Final update for Deadline 7 alignment with Annex E of Rule 6 [PD-010] .
9.66 (B)	Statement of Common Ground East of England Ambulance Service (Clean and Tracked)	B	Final update for Deadline 7 alignment with Annex E of Rule 6 [PD-010] .
9.67 (C)	Statement of Common Ground National Grid Ventures (Clean and Tracked)	C	Final update for Deadline 7 alignment with Annex E of Rule 6 [PD-010] .
9.74 (B)	Shipping and Navigation Under-Keel Clearance Marine	B	Update to correct errors in Version A tables and to align

	Engineering Technical Note (Clean and Tracked)		with significant updates in related Shipping and Navigation documentation
9.75 (E)	Status of Negotiations with Statutory Undertakers and Protective Provisions (Clean and Tracked)	E	Final update to provide a final snapshot of where negotiations have reached at the end of examination.
9.77 (I)	Application and Examination Document Tracker	I	Update for Deadline 7.
9.84 (E)	Register of Environmental Actions and Commitments (REAC) (Clean and Tracked)	E	Update to reflect new commitments.
9.92 (D)	Outline Cable Specification and Installation Plan (Clean and Tracked)	D	Update to align with changes within the Offshore CEMP & REAC. Also update to reflect comments made by Natural England at Deadline 6.
9.95 (B)	Statement of Common Ground Southern Water (Clean and Tracked)	B	Final update for Deadline 7 alignment with Annex E of Rule 6 [PD-010] .
9.96 (D)	Water Depth Baseline Study – Shipping and Navigation Technical Note (Clean and Tracked)	D	Update to add caveat text regarding GridLink alternative route bathy line.
9.100 (B)	Statement of Common Ground London Gateway Port Limited (Clean and Tracked)	B	Final update for Deadline 7 alignment with Annex E of Rule 6 [PD-010] .
9.104 (C)	Areas of Safeguarded Water Depth Plan (Clean and Tracked)	C	Update to correct exclusion area shapefile to fix Order Limits offset issue.
9.106.1	The Applicant's Section 127 and Section 138 Statement	A	Applicant's case for the application of sections 127 and 138 of the Planning Action 2008.
9.109	Applicant's Response to Remaining Hearing Action Points	A	Applicant's response to outstanding Action Points raised from January and March hearings.
9.118 (B)	Statement of Common Ground Southern Gas Networks Limited (Clean and Tracked)	B	Final update for Deadline 7 alignment with Annex E of Rule 6 [PD-010] .

9.140 (B)	Outline In Principal Monitoring Plan (Clean and Tracked)	B	Update to reflect comments made by Natural England at Deadline 6.
9.142 (B)	Statement of Common Ground Aldeburgh Golf Club (Clean and Tracked)	B	Final update for Deadline 7 alignment with Annex E of Rule 6 [PD-010] .
9.145	Closing Submission	A	New document to summarise the final position of the Applicant at the end of the Examination process.
9.149	Applicant's Comments on Other Submissions Received at Deadline 6	A	Comments by Applicant on Other Submissions Received at Deadline 6.
9.149.1	Applicant's Comments on Other Submissions Received at Deadline 6 - Appendix A	A	Appendix to Application Document 9.149 Applicant's Comments on Other Submissions Received at Deadline 6 .
9.150	Applicant's Comments on Responses to Third Written Questions	A	Response by the Applicant on responses by Interested Parties to Examining Authorities Third Written Questions (ExQ3) [PD-023]
9.151.1	Unilateral Undertaking in Relation to BNG from National Grid to (1) Thanet District Council (2) Dover District Council and (3) East Suffolk Council	A	To secure 10% corporate commitment to Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)
9.151.2	Unilateral Undertaking in Relation to the River Fromus Contingency Fund from National Grid to East Suffolk Council	A	To secure payment of the Fromus Contingency Contribution in relation to measures to encourage the passage of micro-invertebrates
9.151.3	Unilateral Undertaking in relation to S85 National Landscapes from National Grid to Suffolk County Council	A	To secure payment of the Furthering the Purposes Compensation Fund and associated Officer Costs Contribution
9.152	Geoarchaeological Interim Statement – Kent	A	Presents a preliminary summary of findings from the geoarchaeological monitoring

			of ground investigations (GI) in Kent.
9.153	Applicant's Response to the ExA's Rule 17 Letter	A	Response from the Applicant to ExA's Rule 17 - Request for further Information [PD-025] .
9.154	Approach to Adopting DESNZ Requirement Discharge Unit for Sea Link	A	Submitted early to PINs to be published on the PINs site ahead of Deadline 7.
9.155	Applicant's update on Environment Agency's outstanding issues	A	Submitted in lieu of having a final signed off Statement of Common Ground with Environment Agency.
9.156	Statement of Common Ground Network Rail - Kent	A	Submitted at Deadline 7

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 (I)**) 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 7. The Applicant has not submitted Statements of Common Ground at Deadline 7 where no substantive update has been made to the version submitted at a previous deadline.

Table 2: Statements of Common Ground Submitted at Deadline 7

Doc Ref	Document Title	Rev
7.4.4 (E)	Statement of Common Ground Marine Management Organisation (Clean and Tracked)	E
7.4.5 (E)	Statement of Common Ground Thanet District Council (Clean and Tracked)	E
7.4.6 (E)	Statement of Common Ground Dover District Council (Clean and Tracked)	E
7.4.7 (E)	Statement of Common Ground Kent County Council (Clean and Tracked)	E
7.4.9 (D)	Statement of Common Ground Harwich Haven Authority (Clean and Tracked)	D

7.4.10 (E)	Statement of Common Ground Maritime and Coastguard Agency (Clean and Tracked)	E
7.4.11 (E)	Statement of Common Ground Port of London Authority (Clean and Tracked)	E
7.4.12 (E)	Statement of Common Ground Trinity House (Clean and Tracked)	E
7.4.13 (E)	Statement of Common Ground UK Chamber of Shipping (Clean and Tracked)	E
7.4.14 (C)	Statement of Common Ground Sandwich Port and Haven Commissioners (Clean and Tracked)	C
7.4.15 (C)	Statement of Common Ground Port of Ramsgate (Clean and Tracked)	C
9.15 (B)	Statement of Common Ground East Suffolk Council (Clean and Tracked)	B
9.23 (B)	Statement of Common Ground Suffolk County Council (Clean and Tracked)	B
9.42 (B)	Statement of Common Ground National Landscape Partnership (Clean and Tracked)	B
9.43 (D)	Statement of Common Ground Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (Clean and Tracked)	D
9.46 (C)	Statement of Common Ground Anglian Water (Clean and Tracked)	C
9.51 (B)	Statement of Common Ground Cadent Gas Limited (Clean and Tracked)	B
9.52 (B)	Statement of Common Ground East Suffolk Water Management Board (Clean and Tracked)	B
9.53 (B)	Statement of Common Ground EDF Nuclear General Limited (Clean and Tracked)	B
9.56 (B)	Statement of Common Ground Network Rail (Clean and Tracked)	B
9.57 (C)	Statement of Common Ground Northumbrian Water Group (Clean)	C
9.58 (B)	Statement of Common Ground River Stour Internal Drainage Board (Clean and Tracked)	B
9.59 (B)	Statement of Common Ground Scottish Power Renewables (Clean and Tracked)	B
9.60 (B)	Statement of Common Ground Sizewell C (Clean and Tracked)	C
9.61 (B)	Statement of Common Ground Suffolk Constabulary (Clean and Tracked)	B
9.63 (B)	Statement of Common Ground Virgin Media (Clean and Tracked)	B

9.62 (C)	Statement of Common Ground UK Power Networks (Clean and Tracked)	C
9.64 (B)	Statement of Common Ground Vodafone (Clean and Tracked)	B
9.66 (B)	Statement of Common Ground East of England Ambulance Service (Clean and Tracked)	B
9.67 (C)	Statement of Common Ground National Grid Ventures (Clean and Tracked)	C
9.95 (B)	Statement of Common Ground Southern Water (Clean and Tracked)	B
9.100 (B)	Statement of Common Ground London Gateway Port Limited (Clean and Tracked)	B
9.118 (B)	Statement of Common Ground Southern Gas Networks Limited (Clean and Tracked)	B
9.142 (B)	Statement of Common Ground Aldeburgh Golf Club (Clean and Tracked)	B

Changes to dDCO

The Applicant has reviewed and carefully considered the Schedule of the ExA's recommended amendments to the draft dDCO [PD-024] issued on 17 April 2026. Table 3.7 of the Applicant's Schedule of Changes to the DCO lists the principal changes made by the Applicant within Revision J of the draft DCO (Document 3.1(J)) submitted at Deadline 7 of the Examination, including those amendments made pursuant to the ExA's recommendation. Table 3.8 lists the Applicant's response to the Examining Authority's schedule of changes to the draft Order in full.

Validation Report

The Applicant notes the requirement to include a report validating that the dDCO is in the Statutory Instrument template at deadline 7. The SI formatting tool is an automated process obtained from the publishing section of the legislation.gov.uk website and the Applicant has regularly been validating the formatting of the draft DCO throughout the examination process.

To provide reassurance to the Examining Authority that the DCO is in the correct SI formatting, the Applicant has provided a copy of its successful validation report dated 23 April 2026.

The Applicant submitted another updated copy of the draft DCO for Deadline 7 (accommodating various newly agreed text) to the SI formatting tool, but at the time of finalising the documents for submission at Deadline 7, the report has not been

returned. Emails with the SI support team have confirmed that validation is an automated process and cannot be expedited. Hence the Applicant will provide an updated validation report for the final Deadline 7 version of the DCO once this is received, prior to the close of the examination.

Land Plans at Deadline 7

The Applicant can confirm there are no changes to the land plans following the Deadline 6 submission [REP6-002] and therefore are not submitting a further edition. The Book of Reference submission at Deadline 7 *is to correct the title and footer information*, there are no material changes to the content of the document.

Environment Agency SoCG

Although the Environment Agency provided a draft response on outstanding issues on 28 April, there has been insufficient time to update the Statement of Common Ground and get the document signed off. The Applicant has instead provided an update in the form of document 9.155 Applicant's update on Environment Agency's outstanding issues to provide the ExA with an update on the position on outstanding issues.

Suffolk County Council SoCG

The Applicant is still in discussions with SCC and the Council would like to review the Deadline 7 submissions prior to finalising. This document will be finalised and submitted before the close of the examination.

Conclusion

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

Yours sincerely,

██████████

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