



**Marine
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(Email only)

MMO Reference: DCO/2022/00008
Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN020026
Identification Number: [REDACTED]

11 September 2026

Dear John Wheadon,

**Planning Act 2008, National Grid Electricity Transmission, Proposed Sea Link Project
Secretary of State's Request for Information**

On 23 April 2025, the Marine Management Organisation (the MMO) received notice under section 56 of the Planning Act 2008 (the PA 2008) that the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) had accepted an application made by National Grid Electricity Transmission, (the Applicant) for determination of a development consent order (DCO) for the construction, maintenance and operation of the proposed Sea Link Project (the DCO Application), (MMO ref: DCO/2022/00008 PINS ref: EN020026). The DCO includes a Deemed Marine Licence (DML) in Schedule 16.

The Applicant seeks authorisation for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Sea Link interconnector, comprising of approximately 122 kilometres (km) High Voltage Alternating Current (HVAC) cable between the Suffolk landfall location (between Aldeburgh and Thorpeness) and the Kent landfall location at Pegwell Bay (the Project).

This document comprises comments in respect of the DCO Application, in response to the request for further information issued by the Secretary of State (SoS0 for Energy Security & Net Zero on 28 August 2026).

This written representation is submitted without prejudice to any future representation the MMO may make about the DCO Application. This representation is also submitted without prejudice to any decision the MMO may make on any associated application for consent, permission, approval or any other type of authorisation submitted to the MMO either for the works in the marine area or for any other authorisation relevant to the proposed development.

Yours sincerely,



**Marine
Management
Organisation**

**...ambitious for our
seas and coasts**





Marine Licensing Case Manager

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1. Request for Further Information Regarding the Deemed Marine Licence

- 1.1. The MMO notes the below request within the Secretary of State's Request for Information Letter dated 28 August 2026.

Benthic Ecology

3. The Applicant, MMO and NE are invited to comment on the proposed condition of Schedule 16 (Deemed Marine Licence):

Benthic Mitigation Plans

"Based on pre-construction surveys required in conditions 4(1)(l) and 15 and in agreement with MMO, the Undertaker must prepare a Benthic Mitigation Plan(s). Any necessary Benthic Mitigation Plans must be submitted to and approved in writing by the MMO in consultation with the statutory nature conservation body prior to offshore works commencing and should include a timetable for implementation of the mitigation and details of any necessary monitoring. Any agreed mitigation and/or monitoring must be implemented in accordance with the agreed timetable".

- 1.2. The MMO is content with the condition wording except to say that the word "should" in the second sentence be replaced with the word "must". So the condition would read:

"Any necessary Benthic Mitigation Plans must be submitted to and approved in writing by the MMO in consultation with the statutory nature conservation body prior to offshore works commencing and **must** include a timetable for implementation of the mitigation and details of any necessary monitoring".

Yours sincerely



Marine Licensing Case Manager

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