



THE PLANNING ACT 2008

THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (EXAMINATION PROCEDURE) RULES
2010

Sea Link Energy Cable

**Appendix H8 for Natural England's combined response to the Deadline 7 documents
and to the All Interested Parties – Invitation to Comment
Natural England's Advice on Suffolk LVIA**

For:

The construction and operation of the Sea Link Energy Cable.

Planning Inspectorate Reference EN020026

21 October 2026

Appendix H8 for Natural England's combined response to the Deadline 7 documents and to the All Interested Parties – Invitation to Comment

Suffolk LVIA

In formulating these comments, the following documents have been considered:

Sea Link Deadline 7 Submission Documents:

- [REP7-171] 9.151.3: Unilateral Undertaking in relation to S85 National Landscapes from National Grid to Suffolk County Council

Natural England has also reviewed the following documents, and has no further comments regarding Suffolk LVIA:

- [REP7-114] 6.4.2.1 (B) ES Figures Suffolk Landscape and Visual Part 1 of 7 (Tracked).pdf
- [REP7-116] 6.4.2.1 (B) ES Figures Suffolk Landscape and Visual Part 7 of 7 (Tracked).pdf
- [REP7-120] 6.6 (I) Habitats Regulations Assessment Report (Tracked).pdf
- [REP7-130] 7.5.3 (E) Outline Onshore Construction Environmental Management Plan (Tracked Changes).pdf
- [REP7-360] 9.84 (F) Register of Environmental Actions and Commitments (REAC) (Tracked)

Sea Link All Interested Parties – Invitation to comment Documents:

- EN020026-003914-C1-198 - 7.5.7.1 (F) Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan - Suffolk (Tracked)

Natural England has also reviewed the following documents, and has no further comments regarding Suffolk LVIA:

- EN020026-003932-C1-216 - 9.84 (G) register of Environmental Actions and Commitments (REAC) (Tracked)

- EN020026-003924-C1-208 - 9.157 Suffolk Landfall Trenchless Installation Depth Assessment Technical Note
- EN020026-003919-C1-203 - 7.5.7.2 (F) Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan - Kent - (Tracked)
- EN020026-003913-C1-197 - 7.5.3 (F) Outline Onshore Construction Environmental Management Plan (Tracked)

Summary

Natural England welcomes the updated documents at Deadline 7 of the Examination (27 Apr 2026) and the documents submitted for the Request for Further Information (18 Sept 2026). While we welcome the proposed inclusion of pH testing, our previous position remains unchanged. We maintain that impacts to acid grassland should be avoided by employing trenchless techniques. Please see the detailed comments below in Table 1 - 2 and our updated Risks and Issues Log (tab H) for further information.

Detailed Comments

Table 1: Natural England's advice on Suffolk LVIA

Document reviewed: EN020026-003914-C1-198 - 7.5.7.1 (F) Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan - Suffolk (Tracked)			
NE Ref	Section	Key Concern and/or Update	Natural England's Advice to Resolve Issue
1	5.3	6ha acid grassland proposal. Natural England notes that following our continued advice soil pH testing is now proposed to be collected. This is to identify any potential nutrient enrichment from the adjacent pig farm.	Natural England has consistently advised that soil pH evidence is required as a baseline from which to assess the suitability of the 6ha area to provide compensation and to evidence the potential for this habitat to be enhanced due to the potential limiting factor of nutrient enrichment which has not yet been evidenced. Although we note that pH will be collected our previous comments are unchanged and we maintain that impacts to acid grassland should be avoided by employing trenchless techniques. We also highlight that 6ha has been proposed to address an impact on 7.5ha

Table 2: Natural England's Advice on Suffolk LVIA

Document reviewed: [REP7-171] 9.151.3: Unilateral Undertaking in relation to S85 National Landscapes from National Grid to Suffolk County Council			
NE Ref	Section	Key Concern and/or Update	Natural England's Advice to Resolve Issue
1	N/A	Natural England notes that a Statutory Undertaking has been agreed between the developer SCC and the National Landscape for the provision of a sum to contribute towards funding projects within the affected area of the National Landscape, and a project officer to administer this.	We note that this is included as a contribution to furthering the purpose of the National Landscape. Our comments regarding the assessment, evidence behind the suitability of the 6Ha proposals and advice that impacts to acid grassland within a National Landscape should be avoided, remain unchanged.