OFFICIAL

From: Mel Haselden [redacted]@mac.com>
Sent: 24 August 2026 17:37
To: DESNZ Correspondence <correspondence@energysecurity.gov.uk>
Cc: Jenny Riddell-Carpenter MP [redacted]@parliament.uk>; Secretary of State (Miatta Fahnbulleh) <Secretary.State@energysecurity.gov.uk>
Subject: Application of new Electricity Transmission Design Principles / National Grid Sea Link

Dear DESNZ,

Thank you for your letter of 28 July (attached below) in reply to my email of 29 June to the previous Secretary of State for DESNZ.

My congratulations to The Rt Hon Miatta Fahnbulleh MP who has now assumed this critical role.

The following paragraph in your letter stands out:

"Additionally, in June, National Energy System Operator published the Electricity Transmission Design Principles (ETDP), a new framework for the planning and design of transmission infrastructure. The ETDP is intended to support a more strategic, consistent and transparent approach to network development, by setting principles for how transmission infrastructure should be planned, routed and designed. It aims to ensure that environmental and community impacts are taken into account alongside technical and system requirements from the earliest stages of network planning. As set out in National Policy Statement EN-5, developers are expected to have regard to the ETDP when developing transmission infrastructure proposals providing greater transparency about the rationale for the design choices made."

Please advise how these new design principles will be applied to Sea Link and to the multiple ongoing energy infrastructure projects at Suffolk Coastal which are going through separate, concurrent, planning and consenting processes?

As I outlined previously – profound cumulative environmental and community consequences are arising from the mounting infrastructure burden of an unprecedented level of spatially concentrated NSIPs on this Nationally Significant Heritage Coast.

In a recent email to me of 21 August National Grid LionLink stated 'There is no single consent process that assesses all projects collectively'

If NESO's new Electricity Transmission Design Principles (ETDP) now represent the Government's framework for strategic and coordinated transmission planning – how will these principles be applied to ongoing projects whose strategic planning pre-dated their publication?

Will DESNZ ensure that these new principles inform the Secretary of State's consideration of Sea Link – and in its relationship with other major infrastructure projects impacting this small area?

I would be grateful for a clear and direct answer.

With best wishes,

Mel Haselden

[redacted]

Aldeburgh
Suffolk
[redacted]

On 28 Jul 2026, at 15:54, DESNZ Correspondence <correspondence@energysecurity.gov.uk> wrote:

Dear Mel Haselden,

Please find attached a response to your recent query to DESNZ.

Yours sincerely,

Reshma Croll

DESNZ Correspondence

<TOB2026_09237.pdf>