

Date: 24 November 2016
Our ref: 200401
Your ref: EN020017



Richborough Connection Project Case Team
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BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Sirs

Application by National Grid for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Richborough Connection Project. Reference 10032101 - Deadline 8 Response

The ExA's Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES).

You have asked IPs to confirm whether they consider the ExA's understanding as presented in the RIES to be complete and accurate, or if not, to identify those points where there is not agreement and to explain why.

We can confirm that Natural England is in agreement with the content of the REIS with the following caveat. We note that there are additional species included within the screening matrix for The Swale. The applicant has addressed this as a Deadline 7 response (Doc 5.5.3) therefore we are satisfied that this issue is now resolved. Additionally, the applicant confirms in the same document that Gadwall, Ringed plover and Grey plover as detailed in the ExA's RIES are not in Tables 3.1 and 3.2 of Doc 5.5.2/REP5-005. Paragraph 2.18 and the second footnote of Annex 1 table European sites screened into the NSER footnotes, are therefore incorrect. We concur with these comments.

We can confirm that Natural England has not changed its position that there would be no LSE on any European site as a result of the proposed development either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects (as previously confirmed in REP2-073 and REP4-028).

With regard to Habitat Regulations matters within the Deadline 7 written submission of oral presentation (Doc 8.54), we can confirm that Natural England are in agreement with the comments made by Mr Ian Simms that all aspects of the NSER were agreed between Natural England and National Grid. We have no additional comments to make.

We would be happy to comment further should the need arise but if in the meantime you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us. For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact me on 0208 026 8007. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Yours faithfully

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