

Richard Hart
Planning Department
Gravesham Borough Council
Civic Centre
Gravesend
Kent DA12 1AU

18th July 2025

Dear Richard,

Proposed construction of a new cable tunnel beneath the River Thames between Gravesend and Tilbury to provide additional transmission capacity. Above-ground infrastructure in the form of a new Cable Sealing End compound and a new head house building along with associated electricity infrastructure, access, parking, boundary treatment and two overhead gantry structures for future overhead lines. Temporary compound for the duration of the project to provide parking, staff welfare facilities, delivery vehicle parking, and equipment and machinery storage, including boundary treatment and lighting. (ref 20231313)

Please find enclosed reports as detailed below to allow discharge of Condition 10 of the above application granted permission in March 2025.

Condition 10 – Construction Ecological Management Strategy (CEMS) - Biodiversity/Biodiversity Method Statement

No development approved by this permission shall take place (including any site/vegetation clearance) before a construction ecological management strategy (CEMS - biodiversity) has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The CEMS - biodiversity shall be based on the avoidance, mitigation and compensation measures indicated within the ecological information submitted with the planning application. The CEMS - biodiversity shall include the following:

- a. Risk assessment of potentially damaging construction activities;*
- b. The identification of biodiversity protection zones and the use of protective fences, exclusion barriers and warning signs. This shall include a suitable buffer zone(s) (as set out by a suitably qualified ecologist) for relevant protected and priority species;*
- c. Extent and location of proposed works shown on appropriate scale maps and plans for all relevant species and habitats;*
- d. Practical measures (both physical measures and sensitive working practises) to avoid or reduce impacts during construction (may be provided as a set of species or habitat-specific method statements);*
- e. The location and timing of sensitive works to avoid harm to biodiversity features;*

- f. Timetable for implementation, demonstrating that works are aligned with the proposed phasing of construction;*
- g. The times during construction when specialist ecologists need to be present on site to oversee works;*
- h. Details of any necessary protected species licences or reference to other relevant documents as required (e.g., Arboricultural Method Statement/ updated species survey reports/ecological design strategy);*
- i. Responsible persons and lines of communication; and*
- j. The role and responsibilities on site of an ecological clerk of works (ECoW) or similarly competent person.*

The approved CEMS - biodiversity will be adhered to and implemented throughout the construction period (and beyond if required) in accordance with the approved details.

Reason: To ensure that construction of the development does not cause harm to biodiversity or ecology including protected species in accordance with Policies CS12 and CS19 of the Gravesham Local Plan Core Strategy (2014) and section 15 of the National Planning Policy Framework (2024).

To address the above matters, a Construction Ecological Management Strategy prepared by National Grid's appointed contractor is enclosed. This strategy considers the whole duration of construction and shall be carried out in accordance with a timetable for implementation as approved.

Due to the overlap between the requirements of conditions 10, 11 and 12, this Construction Ecological Management Strategy forms part of a wider report has been prepared to address all ecological matters. This wider report is the Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP).

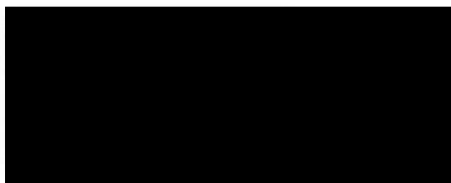
Appendix C of the LEMP is the Construction Ecological Management Strategy and the Ecological Design Strategy.

For ease, this application is submitted with two documents:

1. the LEMP including all Appendices, and
2. Appendix C as a stand-alone document.

Please ask if you require any further detail.

Yours sincerely,



Kate McGregor
Senior Consents Manager