

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 12 of the above application granted permission in March 2025.

Condition 12 – Ecological Design Strategy (CEMS)

No development approved by this permission shall take place (including any site/vegetation clearance) before an Ecological Design Strategy (EDS) has been submitted to and approved in writing by, the Local Planning Authority. The EDS shall ensure that on-site compensatory habitat is provided for relevant protected and priority species (as determined by a suitably qualified ecologist). The EDS shall ensure that both on and off-site compensatory habitat is provided for the projected permanent and temporary loss of reptile habitat (as identified in the AECOM Technical Note: Response to Ecological Points Raised in KCC Advice to Gravesham BC Dated 27th February 2024 (24th July 2024 Rev02). The EDS shall ensure the mitigation and compensation measures with regards to habitat improvements proposed, and the area of land required, are based on available scientific research and government standing advice. If the proposed compensation site already has an existing population of the relevant species and/or is already proposed as compensation for other development, evidence shall be provided to demonstrate that the measures proposed are additional. The EDS shall include where practical the following:

- a. Up-to-date survey data carried out in accordance with best practice for the both the development site and the proposed off-site compensation site(s);*
- b. Purpose and conservation objectives for the proposed works;*
- c. Review of site potential and constraints;*
- d. Description and evaluation of features to be managed;*

- e. *Detailed design(s) and/or working method(s) to achieve stated objectives. This shall include a detailed methodology for the movement of reptiles and measures to prevent reptiles returning to the site prior to and during the development. This shall also include details of how any receptor sites will be enhanced and be in a suitable condition to support the likely number of animals which will be moved, prior to any animals being moved, and details of the management of the compensation site(s) in perpetuity.*
- f. *Full details of soft landscape works, to include species, size and location of new habitats (e.g., trees, shrubs, hedges and grassed areas to be planted) with the extent and location/area of proposed works shown on appropriate scaled maps and plans;*
- g. *Full details of the proposed ecological features. For habitat boxes details shall include numbers, make and model, locations to include height, aspect and mounting location shown on scaled landscaping plans suitable for construction. For log piles and hibernacula details shall include materials, size, shape and construction methodology. Locations shall be shown on scaled landscaping plans suitable for construction;*
- h. *Extent and location/area of proposed works on appropriate scale maps and plans;*
- i. *Full details of the extent of appropriate buffers (as set out by a suitably qualified ecologist) for protected and priority species;*
- j. *Type and source of building materials to be used where appropriate, e.g. native species of local provenance;*
- k. *Timetable for implementation demonstrating that works are aligned with the proposed phasing of development;*
- l. *Details of the body or organisation(s) responsible for implementing the EDS and the mechanisms for securing the mitigation/compensation land and its management for the lifetime of the development;*
- m. *Details of initial aftercare and appropriate management prescriptions for relevant protected and priority species and habitats (as identified by a suitably qualified ecologist and in accordance with information submitted as part of the application) for the lifetime of the development within a Landscape and Ecological Management Plan;*
- n. *Preparation of a work schedule (including an annual work plan capable of being rolled forward over a five-year period);*
- o. *Details for monitoring (to be undertaken by a suitably qualified ecologist(s)) and remedial measures.*

The EDS shall be implemented in accordance with the approved details. All features shall be retained as approved thereafter, unless remedial measures are required. Approval for any remedial measures shall be sought from the Local Planning Authority in writing and thereafter implemented as approved.

Reason: To ensure that construction of the development does not cause harm to species including protected species and their habitat 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, an Ecological Design 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 Ecological Design 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).

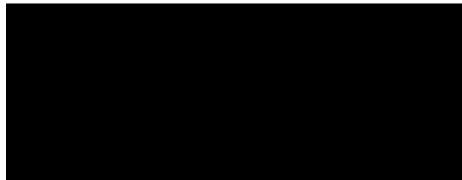
Appendix C of the LEMP is the Construction Ecological Management Strategy and the Ecological Design Strategy.

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