

We need to transition to green energy but not in a way which has a negative impact on the environment. This proposal will have a devastating impact on the local economy and environment.

The development will be 28 meters tall (the height of a 10 storey building) covering a huge 9 hectares (22 acres), within meters of Hackling Marshes Site of Special Scientific interest, known for its Nightingales and red listed species.

Sir Roger Gale MP has publicly stated that it is "An act of environmental vandalism".

The proposed construction schedule is seven days a week 7am to 7pm and 5pm finish on weekends. This would have a devastating impact on the local economy; tourism generally (which Thanet relies on), local pubs & cafes will no longer be financially viable.

The site lies in a groundwater flood zone, surrounded by ditches. The converter station would be built next to the Minster Stream, which flows into the tidal River Stour and out to Pegwell Bay.

The Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) plans are inadequate, the soft clay soil drains poorly and is unsuitable for heavy construction, as structures sink into it. In an attempt to address this, a late application was made to raise the building 2 meters using 40,000 lorry loads of aggregate and deep piles to stabilise the building, however the bedrock is too deep to support the piles.

A permanent 10 meter wide haul road would cross the marsh, with 27 culverts at water crossings, due the important archeology under the marshes the road is required to sit on top, this will again be a challenge on this soil type.

Roads and footpaths would be closed during construction impact on peoples right to access wildlife and outdoor spaces.

The project requires large volumes of water, and project documents note a risk of groundwater contamination, on which Thanet relies.

The area was heavily bombed in World War II, creating a high risk of unexploded ordnance for excavations deeper than three meters.

National Grid have not considered alternative sites in any meaningful way.

Pegwell Bay where the cables will make landfall is a North East Kent Marine Protected Area (NEKMPA) a highly protected area for nature conservation:

Two Special Areas of Conservation (Thanet Coast SAC & Sandwich Bay SAC)

A Special Protection Area (Thanet Coast & Sandwich Bay SPA)

A Wetland of International Importance (Thanet Coast & Sandwich Bay Ramsar site)

Site of Special Scientific Interest (all Thanet Coast SSSI – see below, and part of the Sandwich Bay to Hackling Marshes SSSI)

Kent's largest National Nature Reserve – the 'Sandwich and Pegwell Bay NNR'

Thanet Coast Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ)

In conclusion National Grid have not made an adequate case to justify the project given the impact on local environment and economy. Due process has not been followed. Alternative locations have not been considered.