

From: [REDACTED]
To: [South East Anglia Link](#); contact@sealink.nationalgrid.com
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: I object to the planning proposal for sea-link
Date: 11 November 2025 19:37:32

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I email today after listening to the open floor speakers addressing the planning inspectorate regarding the national grid sea-link proposal coming inland at Pegwell Bay, Kent.

In mine and many others' opinions, it will devastate the biodiversity across the Hacklinge Marshes, Minster Marshes and Thanet, Kent generally, plus the now re-wilded Hoverport site, as well as have an impact on future prevention of flooding.

- Pegwell Bay where the cables will make landfall is a North East Kent Marine Protected Area and yet this designation seems to mean nothing, if this proposal is accepted.
- The land is rich for wading and ground nesting birds who use this area for the migratory rest space and internationally it is of importance for many endangered birds who travel to it to over winter, forage and breed.
- On the marine side of the equation harbour seals, water voles and other aquatic wildlife frequent the rivers and streams which will be polluted with aggregate and other non-native micro species if sand and aggregate is dredged or brought in from other sites.
- The area is a clay bed of 1m thick /fragile and salt marsh so it plays a significant role in sopping up excesses in CO2, and is permeable to surface water allowing it to slowing dissipate away, but if the ground was borred and cement covered (to become 'stable' for heavy duty vehicles) and this substation accepted, then I fear it would not help storm waters subside and the sponge-absorbing effect would be lost. Marsh land nature would change to impermeable and therefore there would be a greater risk of flooding, catastrophic damage to flora and fauna, sea life and birdlife along the coast line.
- The development will be an imposing 28 metres tall (10 storeys) covering a 22 acres within metres of the Hacklinge Marshes.. namely a Site of Special Scientific interest, known for it's Nightingales and many red listed species.

Other things to highlight -

The consultation period is a very short one; only one month seems not long enough for the general public, wildlife charities, Nature England and other significant bodies to make representations, including the environment agency, who can visit the locations and formulate a case.

To visit the space is essential; to track /measure what lives there and when in the year, the impacts of pollutions, air and traffic for example, and social and economic impact for local businesses. Local residents and businesses who have not been made aware of this consultation, because it's lacking in effective publicity, well they should have been made aware so that they can formulate responses and plan effectively for their objections and futures if for example they are imposed with compulsory purchases.

I became aware today from the planning consultation speakers that there has been a

significant change, in that National Grid they haven't made it clear in their application that they're using the hoverport as their main point of construction; and this means effectively it will be out of action for 4+ years. It's re-wilded natural mosaic land. It's not brown belt but saltmarsh, with designations of SSSI status on it. They seem to already have purchased this land and are making changes to it already. Without consent to proceed being awarded. Some speakers mentioned today "was this speaking to the inspectorate a ticking the box exercise?"

This process needs to be an open consultation and transparent process, and one that is costed correctly and all the other proposed sites too, not just to utilise this site that they've deemed the cheapest.

The hoverport site is very fragile site. It remains a unique mosaic habitat which they haven't carried out any ecological surveys on and no mitigation process can effectively have been done, as otherwise they would not propose this.

Pegwell Bay remains a special place because it's accessible to people with limited mobility – as wheelchair users can get right down near the water's edge to see bird life and enjoy the sights and sounds of nature too.

Thanet remains very nature depleted, even more so now because of all the house building /the Thanet parkway train station eating into arable land, and this is one of the few truly wild spaces remaining on this section of Kent coast. Access to wild space is now actually now prescribed to people to improve their health and well-being. Apart from obvious health reasons it is critical to good mental health of the local residents and people who travel in as tourists into the area, or move into the area to live, to benefit from the landscape and wildlife.

This proposal rides rough shod over any SSSI designations, international bird migration routes and wildlife corridors that we are meant to protect (as them being here protect us while they silently absorb the excesses of our industrialised Britain)

As a result National Grid will in the name of green energy be happy to devastate a vibrantly green, rich in wildlife site... which clearly isn't very green at all! I'm not against green energy either, but we have to consider the right place and this is NOT it.

To conclude, there has to be another way, and there has to be a better location.

Please please consider all the objections and the concerns within this email, wholeheartedly. Because in 15 years when water ingresses into the substation and it's deemed unusable, and around it is a concrete laden flooded 22 acre site with no longer especially scientifically interesting plants and species, it will be too late to say "I told you so."

Thank you.

From Kate Baker
Artist and founder of Kate Baker mosaic muse

Kent based mosaic and glass fusion artist; creating bespoke and personalised gifts, visual mosaic wall art, beginner workshops and glass items to wear and for the home.



Thank you for getting in contact. Ask me for a commission or where you can buy my work next.