

From: [REDACTED]
To: [South East Anglia Link](#)
Subject: Written Representation on the Proposed Sealink project
Date: 18 November 2025 15:58:06

Dear Examiners,

I am emailing you my Written Representation as I have been unable to send it via your Have your Say FORM. Please see below.

**Written Representation on the proposed Sealink project
by Caroline Pope
Personal ID Ref No [REDACTED]**

DATE 17/11/2025

Dear Examiners,

I would further like to expand on my Registration points.

Summary

Need for this project questioned.

The location choice for this proposed project questioned.

General and Mental health affects on people.

Impact on local Residents, Businesses, Archaeology, Wildlife, Traffic congestion, and EMF emissions

The consultation process discussed, lack of alternatives, lack of information and awareness, and the unfairness of the whole process.

Concluding request to reject the Sealink Project.

1.

DO WE UNEQUIVOCALLY NEED SEALINK

We need to be unequivocally certain that we absolutely need this proposed project to go ahead before any consent is granted! The Need case for this Sealink proposal has not been thoroughly examined and questioned. I am not an expert, but I know that better technologies are being developed all the time! We cannot afford to make such planetary/environmentally costly mistakes as granting this proposal would cause.

Presently, this country is in a mad dash to reach the so-called prize

of being able to say it's reached Net Zero! But this will mean absolutely nothing if we have no countryside, nature, and wildlife left as a result of this! It would, in fact, be an absolute disgrace if it were granted and proven to be unnecessary, and that other technologies had they been explored and used would have been far better in every way! It's a very sad fact that this country is one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world! Mr Ed Miliband himself is aware of this, which is a conclusion reached from scientific data and reports. (2023 State of Nature Report cites the UK as being among the worst 10 nations for Nature Depletion). If proposed projects, such as Sealink, are granted when other better solutions are available, it would be disastrous!

NESO is in the process of developing a national modelling tool for energy infrastructure siting. Wouldn't it be wise to await this guidance? It could prove that this Sealink project is indeed either not required or in the wrong location, or could be modified in some way, to be much less environmentally destructive! Or that there are better technologies available which we should be considering/using instead!

I personally and many others, also think that, being one of the largest Converter stations in Europe, if it is built, it will be a prime target to be bombed in times of conflict!

Surely, this is putting all the people of Thanet at risk! There should be smaller solutions used to benefit the people in which it is located. Will this actually benefit the people of Thanet? As I do not believe it will!

2.

WRONG LOCATION CHOICE

I am very concerned about the location choice for this proposed project. Why were the people of Thanet only presented with one option of location? No other options were presented to us, so we cannot call this a fair consultation when we had no choices given to us from the very start! Basically, we were confronted with what I must say were bullying tactics. This is the location, and there are no choices! We have to put it here!

I have since learnt that there are other options, but National Grid did

not want to fully explore these for various reasons, known to them, but I suspect financial reasons weighed heavily in this!

Examiners, you know by now how valuable the Pegwell Bay National Nature Reserve is, with all the top designations it has! (NNR, SSSI, RAMSAR, SPA, SAC!) Sir David Attenborough opened it himself in 1999! And Minster Marshes is also a vital wildlife habitat in its own right, which many of the endangered birds and others go to when the tide is high at Pegwell Bay! Minster Marshes is a vital ecological corridor, and wildlife area for migrant birds especially, many which are RED LISTED ENDANGERED! This is the worst location in Thanet that could be used, as it is an absolute wildlife haven!

Besides all of this National Grid would be going against what they say they won't do, that being building such massive infrastructure on land prone to flooding! This is in their own literature! They know this is wrong, but are persisting. However, they seem confused, as initially there was no mention of having to put a 2 metre platform down on piles to try to stop the building from sinking! Having heard the comments at the Open Floor Hearing, I am indeed wondering if this will work! Nature has a way of winning! I heard of how a plane sank totally into the marshland overnight, and how a tractor vanished, and how blanchmange like under the top crust layer it is! If this massive infrastructure were to survive for a while, then what would the impact be on other properties that aren't built up on such platforms? I fear this would mean trouble elsewhere caused by National Grid, who seem to have a massive amount of money to throw at this project. The costs of this project must have risen massively as they hadn't initially thought of having to raise it up on the marshland, so now this may not actually be the cheapest site for their project and infrastructure!

We are having such unpredictable weather; the marshes are a vital flood defence and carbon sink. Lots of people have mentioned their concerns about this, which I am also extremely worried about.

Recently we saw on the News the devastation caused by flooding in Wales! We need our natural flood defences! Our climate is much less predictable and more extreme now! It does not make sense to destroy our own natural flood defences that act so well in these and

future uncertain climate changing times!

3 GENERAL AND MENTAL HEALTH

I have been so lucky to have lived in Pegwell for over 20 years now; it is a beautiful area of Thanet, with so much wildlife. I regularly go for walks, runs, and wildlife spotting in Pegwell Bay, the old rewilded Hoverport site and the public access areas of Minster Marshes. It is so lovely to have these precious wildlife habitats close by, and I am truly grateful and love getting out in nature! Going for a nature walk, seeing what I can spot, or going for a run really is so valuable and feels so mentally rewarding that I do this nearly every day.

Unfortunately, these days, these special wildlife havens are getting scarce, and because of this, people are becoming detached from Nature and are forgetting how important and valuable it is.

If Sealink gets the go-ahead, this will not only be devastating for the wildlife and nature in these environments, but the locals, the businesses, and tourism will suffer immensely, and another vital link for us to access nature will be ruined.

Thanet consistently ranks as the most deprived local authority in Kent and is amongst the most deprived areas in England. It has high levels of unemployment, and people suffering from mental health issues. These areas that National Grid's proposed project will be impacting are vital areas for people to go to for their physical and mental health! Park runs are held every Saturday at Pegwell Bay, and there's a path that cyclists also use there, and a bird hide that bird watchers use. There is a lovely cafe by the car parking area, (The Salty Seal), which is a great place to sit outdoors and have refreshments. Groups such as Birdwise, Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory, Thanet Coastal Project, and various schools and other groups organise Nature walks and bird watching activities, which the public and children can participate in.

4. IMPACT ON LOCAL RESIDENTS

Apart from the general and mental health aspects that I have very briefly mentioned. The locals in this area are very concerned about

the impact this proposed project will have on their daily lives and their property prices.

If this Sealink project were to be granted, residents' property prices would be adversely affected as a direct result of this Sealink project. Who wants to live where massive heavy goods lorries are going to pass throughout the day on a very frequent basis, where the noise and pollution from these are a constant worry, where damage to the roads and verges is a constant problem, where road closures are frequent, and traffic congestion and chaos are a daily problem! Where a massive ugly building looms over the landscape, where massive pylons and buzzing cables and EMF emissions are being continuously emitted with unknown health impacts.

Businesses and tourism to the areas affected will be affected as no one will want to visit these sites whilst all this noise, pollution, and disruptions are going on. Pilgrims walking St Augustine's way will have footpath closures and diversions to contend with.

Local archaeology will be permanently destroyed and lost! This massive ugly building will be visible from Richborough Roman Fort, a hugely significant Roman site in Britain! This site is one of the most symbolically important Roman sites in Britain because it was the landing site of the Roman invasion in AD 43 and remained a key settlement throughout the occupation. Sealink would destroy its chances of being nominated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site!

This proposed Sealink project will offer no benefits to the local community.

In fact, I only see bad impacts, a major, highly visible energy infrastructure target for enemies to aim for in times of war and hostilities. Extremely bad, and irreversible destructive environmental effects, destructive wildlife effects, increased all sorts of pollution and flood risks, loss of good farmland, damage to soil structure, carbon captured released and, loss of future carbon capture potential, an ugly massive eyesore type building which could be seen for miles around, a drop in house prices, and desirability. Damage to roads and verges, increased traffic congestion, road closures and diversions, and chaos! No increase in employment or very minimal, as National Grid will use its own specialist contractors. No reduction

in energy prices. National Grid and its shareholders are the only ones set to benefit from this proposal. Increase in bird deaths through Pylon and cable strikes, as well as habitat loss, Noise and EMF emissions.

5. CONSULTATION PROCESS

Apart from not being offered any alternatives to the location of this proposal. There has been very limited information made available to the General public. There were only a few libraries that had any information on the Sealink proposals, which they only initially displayed for a very very short time frame before it was permanently removed! Consultations were very poorly advertised, and deadlines to comment were short and also not well advertised. So consequently I would say that the large majority of the people of Thanet and surrounding areas do not know about the Sealink proposal and the impacts that it will have upon our environments if it is granted permission.

People also think that once they have commented on the proposal that they have done their bit, yet they do not realise that their comments may have only gone to National Grid! I do not know what National Grid would have done with all of those comments! But I do know that there are an awful lot of people who would be horrified at the Sealink proposals if they knew about them. Also people think that they have placed their objections by signing a petition! This whole process is biased towards National Grid as it has been left to individuals and small groups to try to inform the General Public, and yet National Grid reap the benefits from people not being informed. People are also very busy with their own daily lives and forget deadlines, and the whole process of objecting is very complicated, with different registration processes and deadlines to meet. Many people cannot use the computer and do not know how they can comment. The address to write to, or phone number is not easily available for people who aren't internet savvy. If they do get the postal address then postage costs have to be paid! The whole process is in National Grid's favour, they are the multi-million dollar company that wants to have this Sealink proposal granted, they should be the ones that should get the people to comment that they

are in favour of this proposal and say why!

I feel that having a large foreign company monopolising our energy system is not good for our country, profits go to their share holders, and Britain is left at the mercy of this company to keep the power flowing and do what is right for our country and not just what maybe the most profitable and easiest, quickest methods for National Grid.

There are so many reasons why this Sealink proposal is wrong, not only for us here in Kent, but the Suffolk region, and also for our precious Sea life and Marine environments.

Our wildlife are under immense threats from all angles, just recently on our local News there has been incidents of high rainfall resulting in major flooding in Wales. Avian Flu, killing lots of Swans and other birds. Water pollution killing hundreds of fish, and a pollution incident where millions of Bio beads have been released into the environment! These are just some of the challenges our wildlife and environments are up against, it seems that every week there is some detrimental incident that will adversely affect Nature and what is trying to live in our environments, and that's without mentioning all the environmental loss caused by the massive house building drive! This proposed Sealink project we can all do without!

This proposed project would be going through all the wrong places, and it must be rejected!

Highly protected conservation areas, marine conservation zones, Heritage sites, a special needs school, and local home owners and communities will be badly affected, and vast negative community impacts will result.

I know that you must all be under a lot of pressure, but, please have the courage to stand up for our nature, our environments, our People - (locals, business owners, farmers, tourists and pilgrims), our agriculture, our culture and heritage, and our country and please reject this Sealink project proposal!