

## Yvonne Edge Response to Sea Link Proposals - Snape Maltings 5th November 2025

As you can tell from my accent, I am not a native of these parts. No. But you can't help who you fall in love with and that's what brought me on my first trip to Suffolk 23 years ago. To visit the relatives. Besides the interrogation I got from a very wary mother, I was not taken with this landscape – far too flat! Where were the hills? Where were those colossal reminders of nature visible every day from the polluted confines of an inner-city life? (Well....at least when it wasn't raining!) It took me a little time to appreciate the vastness of these open skies and the wonders it opened up to me. Over the years I learned the slow, languorous, quiet ways of this place, I saw creatures I'd only ever seen in books or on TV before – adders, marsh harriers, slow worms and glow worms, a cornucopia of nature's delights and wonders. Then, finally, 10 years ago I moved here, made my home on the southern border of North Warren Nature Reserve.

I want you to listen, just for a short time (10 SECOND PAUSE). That is the soundtrack to my life every day in our home. Actually, not quite. This quiet is sometimes interspersed with the roars of the red deer stag during the autumn rutting season, the surprisingly high pitched calls of the hunting marsh harrier, the unbelievable booming of the bittern during the spring mating season, the call of the cuckoo interloper, demanding food from its tiny stepparents, the shrieks of the greylags as they crash in for the night, and the magical beating of the wings of thousands of starlings as they perform their gravity defying murmurations in winter. And so many more. Not exactly the sound of silence then but sonic manna to my ears.

If National Grid's current Sea Link plans go ahead, I have no doubt that this soundscape will be gone not just during the construction phase but forever. These species, many endangered but all calling this place home and a haven for at least part of the year, will not be able to survive, or will not care to survive in what will become an industrial landscape. I will not repeat the facts that many other commentators have already so eloquently described to you about the many kinds of damage these proposals will cause not just to North Warren but to this wonderful Heritage Coast. 3 minutes – just enough time to boil an egg. Talking of eggs, it has been said that you can't create an omelette without cracking eggs. Well in this case, I think the analogy should be that it's like taking a sledgehammer to crack a nut, and a nut that doesn't need to be cracked at all.