

FF0A893ED – Save Minster Marshes campaign Open Floor Hearings 11th November 2025

Respected Members of the Examination Panel, Good afternoon. [REDACTED]
representing Save Minster Marshes.

- Our group has over **3531 Facebook group members to date. 16,045 online petition signatories**, and **243 financial supporters**,
- We **all** support sustainable energy.
- Since our Relevant Response, the Government published “Unlocking the benefits of the clean energy economy” report, on 30th October.

I quote from page 6,

“The climate and nature crises are fundamentally linked, and we must address them together. We will use our land and resources more efficiently and innovatively. [] We will see reduced flood risks, improved water quality, and cleaner air. We will protect our countryside and increase access to nature, so the British people can enjoy what is rightfully theirs.”

- The project, if you recommend it, will make a mockery of this and do the opposite. The Government might look incompetent for one of its first flagship projects.
- The applicant claims national policy makes this project a “critical national priority”, but we argue there’s **insufficient evidence** for choosing **this specific location**.
- The mitigation hierarchy wasn’t followed: avoidance was bypassed and the mitigation site offered is not functionally linked land.
- Only **one site in Kent** was ever seriously considered, Pegwell. Alternatives were dismissed and NG brushed off our request for more details about the selection process. It appears that the Corridor Selection came before Strategic Options and they are retrofitting the location.
- Since our first response, Cleve Hill Solar Park has been consented. Since that marsh has already been sacrificed, the converter could have gone there, surely? Where’s the joined up thinking? There are others with shorter undersea corridor – better for the Tax Payers who will pick up the costs.
- Costs are underestimated. The project will require **massive concrete piling** because the current test bore holes are down to 50m, plus the **2-metre deep raft of aggregate covering 9 hectares** is not included in initial costs.

- Our recent research has found that the old power station at Richborough had to be underpinned with 2000 concrete piles and the reason cited was unsuitable ground. Nothing has changed here. It's still a marsh.
- We have been collecting our own bird ringing data. We have **32 red-listed, 46 amber-listed, and 74 other species**, including critically endangered turtle dove and golden plover. The 200m double row mature hedge planted specifically to support bird life will be utterly destroyed. The birds will not return.
- We also have critically endangered European eels, beavers, otters, water voles, grass snakes, slow worms, brown hares, rare moths and orchids. They are all voiceless in this process.
- **50%** of the land within Kent's Order Limits is BMV land. The area is **Grade 2 agricultural land** with much under DEFRA Stewardship. The project will cause the **permanent loss of over 12 hectares of BMV land**, it's a "significant effect". What a mockery to lose this. Not only for the wildlife and food security but also the livelihoods of the farmers.
- There's also a big chunk of land for which the agents haven't found the owners and it is directly on top of the drilling route. Incredible. What have they been doing for the last 3 years?
- We've already got huge energy developments, including Nemo, the Richborough Energy Park, the Biomass converter and more solar projects. **It's already becoming a Zone of Sacrifice. Please stop.**
- NG claims local economic benefits, but their own analysis states local employment will be "very limited" and the effect on GVA "small". Most jobs will go to non-local workers; local training and apprenticeships are only "potential", not guaranteed.
- The impact on tourism and local businesses will be disastrous.
- Traffic surveys were conducted in January, the area's lowest tourism period, and now the Ramsgate tunnel is closed the data is inaccurate.
- Trenchless and HDD ducting is apparently now going to be 24 hours a day for 120 days minimum.
- Footpaths will be permanently closed or rerouted and access to the NNR will be restricted. Thanet is more deprived than 89% of all others in the UK. Why not just deprive us some more eh?
- The flood risk assessment doesn't include recent events and the wet weather just this last month. And in June 2025, **Thanet and Sandwich received 2 inches of rain in under 2 hours**, causing extensive flooding. Covering **9 hectares of**

land in concrete will worsen flood risks. And how can you put SUDS on a marsh? Ridiculous.

- You know NG issued the Document Signposting Table only **11 days before the registration deadline. This was not fair.** And we now have 527 documents – 65 of which are superseded.
- Many residents didn't know about the project due to poor publicity and inaccessible documentation. Even now, NG have proposed the change to the use of the Hoverport and they are still not consulting properly. Their arrogance is astonishing.

So in conclusion.

- NG has underplayed all the bad effects of Sea Link, failed to consider alternatives, and not applied the mitigation hierarchy. Please do not let us become a Zone of Sacrifice for the rest of the UK. Its not fair on us or the voiceless wildlife.

Thank you for your attention. We also know that you've said you won't accept links but we urge the ExA to watch this [REDACTED] made by [REDACTED] [REDACTED] naturalist and filmmaker, [REDACTED] The film is unfortunately too large to upload to your website. [REDACTED] spent 9 months travelling back and forth between his home in West Sussex and Minster Marshes to make it. That's how much Minster Marshes and Pegwell Bay mean to him.