

I am emailing to oppose the Application by National Grid Electricity Transmission for an order granting development consent for the Sea Link Project. Although I am in favour of Green Energy, I object to their proposed plans to lay 90 miles of cable under the sea between Kent and Suffolk. This will have devastating consequences for the marine and on land environment, international wildlife and local biodiversity and cause irreversible damage.

Pegwell Bay is an internationally and locally protected site, which National Grid seem to be ignoring. It is of international importance for wildlife, migratory and overwintering birds. It is also home to Kent's largest seal population. It is unbelievable that this site, which is a patchwork of fragile ecosystems and wildlife populations (many endangered), was ever considered suitable.

I also oppose National Grid's plans to build sub stations, a BESS by the SSSI, a converter station and building infrastructure on near by Minster Marshes, which has an important and intricate functional relationship with Pegwell Bay. Minster Marshes is part of the international migratory super highway and provides refuge for overwintering birds seeking shelter from harsh coastal weather and is a vital wetland haven for birds feeding and resting before continuing their long journey. Minster Marshes wetlands and SSSI habitats support many rare birds including some on the the Conservation Red List.

It would be possible for National Grid to relocate their scheme elsewhere and I object to them choosing Pegwell Bay, The Hoverport and Minster Marshes as their cheapest option. It has always felt like a done deal (including at the public consultation with NG where I spoke to a representative) and that this has been a tick box exercise for NG.

I also oppose National Grid's proposed site for mitigation which is completely unsuitable. It's too far from Minster Marshes, surrounded by industrialisation and does not form part of the functional relationship between Pegwell Bay and Minster Marshes, which is vital for wildlife. There is also too much noise from traffic and pollution to enable any mitigation, let alone 10 percent.

Open Floor Hearing

I am also deeply concerned that National Grid are suggesting that small changes are being proposed regarding them accessing the Hoverport at Cliffsend, Kent, when this is not the case. If their proposal to use more land at the Hoverport for construction, operation & maintenance of the Sea Link pipeline is accepted, these significant changes will have an even greater devastating impact on the fragile ecosystem & sanctuary for wildlife. The Hoverport site has rewilded naturally over 40 years & the site is very important ecologically.

National Grid have not undertaken any environmental assessments for the Hoverport, which supports the Fiery Clearwing Moth & the Sussex Emerald Moth, rare Man & Lizard Orchids & many endangered Red List species of birds including Corncrakes.

The surrounding Saltmarsh is protected by SSSI, SPA & RAMSAR designations. I am deeply concerned by the lasting damage to the Saltmarsh which was caused by National Grid's Nemo project and have no faith that their expanded proposals at the Hoverport will not cause further environmental damage.

I am particularly concerned about the Hoverport being turned into a construction site for the next 4 years & the resulting impact of noise & light pollution on wildlife & residents.

The Hoverport is part of a functionally linked wildlife corridor between Pegwell Bay & Minster Marshes & this will impact negativity on wildlife being able to source food, shelter, rest & breed.

National Grid's proposals will also impact local people & visitors, & local businesses including the Viking Cafe, as access to the public will be blocked. Access to public Rights of Ways will be blocked at Minster Marshes too. I've enjoyed walking my dogs, birdwatching and wildlife photography for many years at Pegwell Bay, the Hoverport and Minster Marshes and I strongly object to National Grids plans to destroy these fragile and peaceful and precious habitats.

Please reconsider, including changes made to National Grid's scheme which will cause further damage to these important habitats and the incredible wildlife they support.

Further Comments & Objections:

Cumulative impact on Minster Marshes, Pegwell Bay, The Hoverport & surrounding communities, villages & towns
NGs plans will destroy ancient countryside & historic views & the character of this landscape

Impact on the Pilgrims Way across Minster Marshes to Canterbury Cathedral

Minster Marshes provides vital protection to surrounding villages & towns re flooding as the Marshes acts as a sponge

NGs surveys are unreliable with many findings based on desk top surveys. They're ground surveys were rushed & destructive to the surrounding environment with destroyed paths & run off onto the River Stour & Minster Stream

Critically endangered eels are present at Minster Marshes

Thank you.

Yours sincerely

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Margate