

I am submitting this response as a local resident who will be affected by National Grid's proposed Sea Link project! And in reply to the Thematic response to my Relevant representation. My relevant representation No is RR-0740.

Firstly, I must state that this timeframe is really unfair! I have only found out about this today, 8/12/2025, and the deadline is tomorrow! So there is no way that I will be able to read through all of this documentation and submit as full a response as I would have given the chance! Again, this timeframe only allows people who are computer literate and have computers and the time in which to submit a response within such short timeframes the chance to do so! What about the postal responders? And the people who need help submitting their responses? This is again, I must state a very bias, unfair and very complicated process which most people do not understand! We have to keep repeating ourselves, registering for this, that and the other, and submitting responses by specific deadlines and understanding all the terminology of the process! It is a full time job to keep up with all of the requirements to object to this scheme! And most people think they have done that by signing a petition against it in the first instance!

My written objections have covered a vast amount of reasons why this scheme should not be permitted to go ahead as it is, and where it is. National Grid responds likely insignificant impact to many of the objections, but the truth is that they do not know the full extent of the impacts that they will have. It is in National Grid's interest to get this through planning and consented so this remark is frequently used.

7.1.2 Loss of productive agricultural land, and best and most versatile land is not acceptable, where is the evidence that alternatives were exhausted? Where is the undisputed evidence that this proposed project is needed? Our country apparently uses approximately 1.7 GW of power a day as a Nation, yet we have an installed power base of 3.4 GW! (Ref: Jason Barker, consultant engineer - Heritage party 2025) Net Zero is an excuse these large companies use to make even more money! Whilst destroying what really matters in the process! We need our land for our crops and wildlife! What is the point of ruining our land to then have to import our food? How is this reaching Net Zero? Trying to mitigate with money does not make up for the long-term damage/permanent losses that will be incurred!

7.26 Alternatives, site selection, and assessment of options: In Kent, we were not given any options for locations. It appears that National Grid just chose the site they wanted without considering the environmental, community, wildlife, and cumulative impact implications. In their own literature, they say they will avoid areas prone to flooding, so why do they propose building on a Marsh? This does not take into account any Climate change risks!

7.26.2, 7.4.2, 7.4.3, 7.4 Avoiding areas such as Best most versatile land, tourism areas, bird habitats, flood zones, National Nature Reserves, SSSIs, Ramsar sites, SPAs, and Historic landing sites must be paramount, not used for National Grids convenience. Cultural Heritage must be respected. Historic landing sites, such as Pegwell Bay, must be recognised as important and left undisturbed for future generations. Visual impacts of the proposed Converter and substation have been played down; these will be massive eyesores on our landscape and will be evident from our Historic Richborough Fort!

7.26.5 There has been insufficient explanation for the rejection of an Offshore alternative. This needs exploring and examining as an alternative solution. An Offshore grid would reduce the amount of infrastructure needed on land and be safer for us in times of war, as it could be strongly protected and less damage would be caused if it were attacked.

7.3 Construction impacts - The work hours proposed are very long, and there is only a let-up overnight. This will negatively impact local residents' mental health and have bad impacts on the wildlife also. What about night shift workers who will be trying to sleep within these work hours? The continuous noise and also the construction traffic will cause major disturbances and will impact all of the locality and beyond!

7.2 Pollution - The construction phase itself will cause major air pollution with dust and vehicle fumes impacting our environment and our health. Monitoring it does not prevent harm!

There is also the risk of water pollution from the construction process and beyond. Contamination from spillages, fuel, and drill lubricants into the water table is a real threat, and run off into the Minster stream is also probable, which will affect the wildlife living and using it. E.g, European water eels, water voles, fish, and birds.

Light pollution will be inevitable and will cause adverse effects on our wildlife.

7.8 Safety and Security risks are a major concern! Having infrastructure such as this in our locality poses an enormous risk to our communities and all the people living in Thanet and beyond! Why do we need such massive infrastructure that will be such a major target in times of war and conflict? National Grid needs to be able to fully justify why they think that this is so necessary, rather than have smaller local alternatives! That would be unlikely to be a target of attack! Not much has been said about how this major threat may be managed! Can it even be managed? What will happen if the site is attacked? What emergency response plans would be put in place?

7.19, 7.20 Marine ecology - The subsea cables will harm Herring and Sandeel spawning and Nursery grounds, and also will affect the critically endangered European water eels' navigational and swimming speeds. National Grid saying No Significant Impact is not good enough! It lacks any details and evidence! National Grid's surveys are what are insignificant! Loss of Herring and Sandeels will have a knock-on effect on the wildlife that relies on these as a food source! Noise, heat, and vibrations from these cables will all cause problems, as well as the laying of them.

7.30 Electromagnetic field exposure is not covered very well, and within guidance does not help to alleviate the public's concerns and what health effects could result, and what effects it may also have on wildlife.

7.14 Ecology and Biodiversity - The surveys that I have looked at that National Grid has had done are just not adequate, let alone good enough! How can 3 days of observing our Seals in Kent be counted as a comprehensive survey? Seals are sensitive creatures and can easily be disturbed. Noise and Underwater noise, lights, vessels, and humans will disturb them!

How can the reptile surveys be counted as being good enough when on one of the visits to the reptile mats, the temperature was too high for the reptiles? This visit was still counted!

Dormouse surveys had the dormouse tubes ruined in hedgerows before the time allocated was up!

Red-listed endangered species are abundant in the proposed areas that National Grid wants for its proposed Sea Link project. The area that they want to use as mitigation is not good enough! Or suitable! I have not been able to read through this section in the limited time frame, but our wildlife is in serious decline, and any loss or damage to their habitats could lead to the very real possibility of extinction for some of our species!

Some habitats just cannot be replaced! Once they are gone, they are gone for good, and the wildlife and ecology living

within them are also lost for good! Hedgerows, grasslands, and salt marsh edges cannot be replaced. They take decades to grow and establish. We should be cherishing and protecting these and not allowing them to be so easily destroyed! England is one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world! If proposed projects such as Sealink, which will cause mass environmental destruction, are continuously being granted, then we have no chance of improving; we will only get worse, and we, along with our wildlife and biodiverse environments will all suffer in the long-term!

7.35.5 Long-term flood risks and drainage - If National Grid is allowed to build on our marshland, we will need them to take permanent responsibility and liability for the possibility of flooding, because the marshes are what have stopped a lot of local flooding! They have acted like a giant sponge absorbing excess rainfall for I don't know how many years, and continue to do so. But if National Grid wants to destroy this by building such massive infrastructure on the marshes, they need to take full liability for it! Not just do it and run, leaving the problems caused with the local councils and residents.

7.35.6 Compounded Stress - We have suffered from so much infrastructure being built in Thanet. We are no longer what we were once famed for, that being, the Garden of England! Now, unfortunately and sadly, we are becoming more and more like a massive housing estate on a peninsula! Margate, Broadstairs, and Ramsgate are all merging into each other. What were separate towns with lovely green lands in between them are now just becoming an Urban sprawl. We need our very small and precious wild green areas for our own peace of mind, and to remind us of how beautiful nature can be.

I cannot be convinced that this Sea Link project is the right way forward for us all, and I am most strongly against it!

Projects such as this are ruining our country and will be the worst thing we can do, not just for us, our biodiverse environments and wildlife, but also for our future generations!

National Grid says that this project will have minimal impact wherever they can, yet this is mainly based on unproven assumptions! They want to get this through planning, but really, these sorts of massive, destructive projects are out of date and are not required; there are better solutions that are much less destructive and better for our communities, nature, and environment. Please do not grant this proposed Sea Link project consent.