



*Minster Abbey, Benedictine Nuns  
Church St. Minster  
Ramsgate Kent UK CT12 4HF*

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Interested Party Reference number:** [REDACTED]

We, the community of **Benedictine Nuns of Minster Abbey**, write to express our **deep and heartfelt objection** to the proposed **Sea Link project** and its associated works planned for Thanet.

For over **1,400 years**, Minster Abbey has been a place of prayer, peace, hospitality, and stewardship of the natural world. Our community has witnessed many changes across the centuries, but never have we faced a proposal with such **grave and potentially disastrous consequences** for the environment, the local community, and the heritage of this sacred landscape.

## 1. Threat to God's Creation and Precious Protected Habitats

The wetlands, marshes, and coastal habitats of Pegwell Bay, Minster Marshes, and the Thanet coast are part of the **beautiful and fragile creation** entrusted to us all. These areas hold national and international protection for good reason: they are irreplaceable sanctuaries for wildlife and living expressions of the natural balance we believe must be preserved.

The proposed construction threatens to destroy habitats that have developed over centuries. Once lost, these ecosystems **cannot be recreated**. The harm would be permanent and far-reaching.

## 2. Harm to Marine Life

Pegwell Bay is home to Kent's **largest seal haul-out**, an extraordinary gift to this region and a sign of ecological richness. These gentle creatures are particularly vulnerable to disturbance. The works proposed—especially the risks associated with landfall, cabling, and potential trenching—pose serious threats to seals.

## 3. Increased Flood Risk and Environmental Vulnerability

Minster Marshes are essential natural flood defences. They protect homes, farmland, and the Abbey itself by absorbing excess water during heavy rainfall and storm surges.

Replacing these permeable wetlands with industrial infrastructure significantly increases the danger of flooding—a danger that will worsen as climate change accelerates. It is deeply troubling that such a risk is being taken with the safety of local residents and with land historically tied to our community.

## 4. Insufficient and Incomplete Environmental Assessment

As custodians of land adjoining the affected areas, we are disturbed by the evidence that environmental surveys for this project have been **incomplete, inconsistent, and lacking in essential seasonal data**. Proceeding without a full understanding of the consequences would not only be reckless but ethically indefensible.

## 5. Loss of a Sacred and Historic Landscape

For centuries, the marshes and surrounding lands have formed part of the Abbey's natural environment—an area of quiet reflection, prayer, and connection with God's creation. The proposed Sea Link development threatens to permanently alter the character of this place, diminishing both its natural beauty and spiritual atmosphere. Future generations may never know the landscape as it exists today.

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## Conclusion

With deep concern for our community, the natural world, and those who will come after us, we respectfully and firmly request that the **current Sea Link proposal be withdrawn or refused**.

We urge the decision-makers to consider **alternative routes and technologies**, and to conduct **thorough, independent environmental assessments** that uphold the moral responsibility we all share to protect the Earth and its creatures.

Our Abbey has stood for centuries as a witness to peace, prayer, and care for creation. It is in this spirit that we make this appeal:  
**Thanet must not be sacrificed because of inadequate planning or disregard for the long-term consequences of environmental damage.**

Thank you for your attention to this matter.  
We trust that wisdom, compassion, and stewardship will guide your decision.

With prayer and sincere concern,

**The Trustees of Minster Abbey**  
Minster-in-Thamet  
Kent, UK CT12 4HF