

I am responding to the consultation as someone who cares deeply about Kent's natural environment and who has seen how much the people of Minster value and depend on the marshes and surrounding landscape.

Although I do not live in Minster, I have followed this issue closely and have been struck by the strength of feeling from local residents. People regularly share photos of the marshes, the birds, and the changing light across the landscape. It is clear that this is not just "land" — it is a place of identity, belonging, and everyday wellbeing for the community.

My concerns include:

Environmental harm and loss of habitat

- The marshes, saltmarsh, and SSSI form a rare and fragile ecosystem.
- The area supports a wide range of birdlife and wildlife that cannot simply relocate if their habitat is disturbed or destroyed.
- The construction methods described would cause significant noise, vibration, and disruption to a sensitive environment.

Impact on community wellbeing

- The marshes are a cherished local amenity — a place where people walk, watch wildlife, and find peace.
- The emotional connection residents have to this landscape is clear from the photos and stories they share.
- Damaging or industrialising this space would have a real impact on the mental health and quality of life of the community.

Concerns about the consultation process

- Many of the concerns raised in the first consultation do not appear to have been meaningfully addressed.
- The scale of the proposed works and their long-term consequences remain unclear or underexplained.

Why this matters to me

I care about the protection of Kent's natural spaces, especially those that hold deep meaning for local communities. The Minster marshes are one of the few remaining areas where wildlife, landscape, and community identity coexist in a way that feels genuinely special. Once this environment is damaged, it cannot be restored.

I urge the Examining Authority to take seriously the environmental and social impact of this proposal, and to recognise the profound value this landscape holds for the people who live alongside it.

Thank you for considering my comments.