

The whole nature of this submission by the National Grid is typical of its lack of sufficient research in the initial application and completely contrary in its nature. They ignore the whole significance of the area as vital to wildlife and a protected place and both promise to avoid the saltmarsh and then seek to include it in this change request 1. The additional land rights being sought and the implications of extending across this area has not been adequately investigated. There is no justification for constructing massive access routes that will impact on public recreational use as well as destroying the habitat of threatened wildlife. There is nowhere else in Thanet that has the environment of Pegwell Bay and its link to Minster Marshes. Everywhere else has been concreted over for leisure and promenades. Thanet is always regarded as too far gone to bother about. This is not the Cotswolds with wealthy residents who have influence and power but a deprived area that is now going to be deprived of the last vestiges of nature that it has access to. There seems to be an attitude that because there has been industrial development near Pegwell Bay that it is not worth saving the remaining wildlife which is clinging on to existence, despite the efforts of human beings to drive them to extinction all in the name of profit for shareholders of National Grid. Who is going to pay for all the repairs needed for the roads around Pegwell Bay which will be subject to unprecedented levels of use by thousands of lorries which will cause even more potholes than there are currently. Is KCC going to foot the bill for this? Is there anything in the National Grid proposal that acknowledges the damage it will cause? Will they pay for it? I have seen an example of the so-called mitigation of the pipeline that they installed and ruined the freshwater lake at Pegwell Bay. They left a huge scar running across the footpath that is made of chalk and disintegrates when it rains. This Change Request 1 seems to leave out questions on assessments that it hasn't answered in the hope that it will succeed in the application and then not have to bother. I don't believe all the interested parties concerning land rights have been properly consulted. The ecological damage to Pegwell Bay is going to be disastrous. I feel that the effect on people's mental health by the loss of this nature reserve is going to be catastrophic. It was a place of quiet and reassurance for everyone during lockdown and it is vital the whole National grid project is refused.