

I have read the information about the plans and requirements for bringing the cables to the Converter Station in via Pegwell Bay in Thanet. I witnessed the work to lay the cables for the Thanet Offshore Wind Farm and the impact on the area. This application for the Sea Link project is a scale far beyond the earlier work and viewing the plans, understanding and knowing the landscape well from living here since 2008, it is disastrous and damaging for what is an SSSI area. The plans will overwhelm the entire area of Pegwell Bay and the nature reserve.

The area is a precious site for wildlife and for the residual benefit this gives to people. Thousands of people, both visitors to South Thanet and the residents, use Pegwell Bay for its recuperative, beneficial atmosphere and for its SSSI benefits of wildlife unique in Southern England. The Bay is home to the largest population of seals in the South East. The SSSI encompasses rare birds and the wildlife around the seashore continues into the land, into the Minster Marshes where the Converter Station will be built, an area with birds not found anywhere else in the South East.

These plans, running over 5 years, will wipe out the SSSI accreditation and hinder the area irreparably, after the long period where the wildlife has gradually established and is now a valuable part of life for everyone in this area of Southern England.

The area is not only significant in its value for people living in South Kent who use it for their restoration and renewal, it is also a valuable and irreplaceable element in the visitor industry for Thanet and South Kent - there is no comparable site within 50 miles and it is therefore an asset which needs to be protect. National Grid want to use it because it's the cheapest option for the bringing in of cabling and for linking to Europe and Suffolk. This is not a good enough reason to sacrifice a precious area which is an SSSI and needs to be protected. There are many other less special sites which can be used.