From: [redacted]
To: South East Anglia Link
Subject: Minster Marsh and old Hover port Thanet Kent
Date: 05 August 2026 18:37:18

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Dear Sir/Madam

I have just been advised by my local MP Polly Billington that due to a conflict of interest caused by her recent appointment as Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State in the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) she is not able to comment on the proposed Sea Link development at Minster Marshes or the Old Hover port in Thanet.

I therefore am forwarding the relevant contents of the email I have recently sent to the new Secretary of State DESNZ

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To build such an enormous structure on a Marsh, next to an important SSSI nature reserve is madness. To put the cables through a site with a large seal colony is I repeat madness. The disruption and destruction of wildlife and habitats that this will cause is unforgivable. Red listed birds use this area, eels have been reported here, how can this site even be considered when other less ecologically valuable sites are available?

The plan to use the old hoverport which is one of the few seminaturlised areas left open to the people of Thanet is cruel. It has taken decades for nature to gain a foot hold here and more important species of plant and animals have emerged as time has gone on. Now we learn that it is to be used as a base for National Grid while they carry out their plans. It will be destroyed, and we will have lost a popular walking area.

The noise , lighting, traffic from the proposed buildings will be disruptive to all in the area. The noise and disturbance will detrimentally affect the SSSI adjacent. The natural water flow through the marsh will be affected by the pile driving 3 meters or more into it to make the base for a concrete raft on which the building is to be built. It will be the end of the marsh and the end of the wildlife that it sustains.

Upgrading the electricity network to help with net zero is commendable, why is it being planned with such destruction of important wildlife areas. It is disappointing beyond belief that this site is even being considered.

This is not the only site that is earmarked for damage. The landfalls in Suffolk through RSPB reserves will suffer the same fate unless a stand is made to ensure the protected natural areas left (and there are not enough of them) are protected.

Sir Roger Gale MP has raised alternative sites but these have been dismissed.

I hope you are able to see sense and not just the money being made for National Grid investors at the loss of our wildlife.

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I feel compelled to add that no compensation to community causes by National Grid will be enough to mitigate the loss of the wildlife and plant life that will occur if this development takes place.

Yours sincerely
Jennifer Barnes
[redacted]