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Subject: Minster marshes and Pegwell bay
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Minster Marshes and Pegwell Bay: a place I do not want us to lose

I have lived in Thanet for many years, and places such as Pegwell Bay and Minster Marshes have become part of the landscape of my life.

What matters to me about them is not simply that they are beautiful, although they are. It is that they are alive. They are places of birds, marsh, water, grasses, insects, mudflats, changing light and enormous skies. They are places where the natural world is still able to exist on its own terms.

I worry that landscapes like this can be underestimated because they are quiet. They do not announce their importance. A marsh can look empty to somebody passing through it, yet it may be supporting an intricate web of life that has taken many years to establish.

I understand that we need new energy infrastructure and that moving towards cleaner energy is important. But I do not believe that tackling climate change should mean accepting unnecessary damage to places that are already precious for wildlife and biodiversity. These aims should strengthen one another.

What especially troubles me is the thought that, once a landscape has been fragmented or industrialised, we may only realise afterwards what has been lost. Mitigation can never fully replace a place that has developed its own ecology, history and character over time.

Pegwell Bay and Minster Marshes are not empty spaces on a map. They are part of the living fabric of East Kent, and part of what makes this area itself.

I hope that, before any final decision is made, the ecological importance of this landscape will be given the greatest possible weight, and that every genuinely less damaging alternative will be considered.

I would like future generations to inherit more than our infrastructure. I would like them also to inherit places where birds still gather, marshes still breathe, and where a person can stand under a wide Kent sky and

feel that some parts of the world have remained beautifully unspoilt

Sent from my iPhone