

Geoff Haworth [REDACTED]

South East Anglia Link

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Interested Party Reference Number: [REDACTED]

Dear Secretary of State

I am emailing in response to your Request for Information with regard to the Application by National Grid Electricity Transmission for an Order Granting Development Consent for the South East Anglia Link Project.

Please find below my responses as they affect the flora and fauna of the proposed area of development, as this is of particular concern to me and my enjoyment of Pegwell Bay and the surrounding Minster Marshes.

Paragraph #16 - Breeding birds Sandwich Bay to Hacklinge Marshes SSSI. It is essential that, should the development go ahead, National Grid commits to not undertaking any work between March and September at the SSSI. Otherwise, there will be considerable disruption to the habitat of the breeding birds and have a significant negative impact on their breeding. This should be unconditional and, as such, their inclusion of the words 'after a nest check' should be taken out. To my knowledge National Grid have already damaged the habitat of breeding birds on the site by erecting a site office next to a barn owl box on Minster Marshes that was in use by barn owls - clearly riding roughshod over the welfare of the local birdlife.

Paragraph #19 - Overhead-line collision monitoring. It is absolutely essential, should the development go ahead, that diverters are fitted to power lines from the start, and not after collisions have happened. In addition I would argue for there to be five years of monitoring, and not the two that National Grid are suggesting. Two years does not give a sufficient time frame to adequately monitor the impact of such a development.

Paragraph #21-22 - Hazel dormouse. The Hazel Dormouse is one of Britain's rarest and most iconic mammals. It is a protected species under

Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the **Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017** (as amended). Further surveys are needed on the proposed development site with respect to the presence and protection of this endangered species at Minster Marshes and the surrounding area.

Paragraph #32 - Pegwell Landfall Works. National Grid have stated that such landfall works only apply 'below mean high water springs'. If this were to be the case then works at Pegwell Bay, including near the former hoverport site, could still go ahead during the winter months. Should the development go ahead as proposed by National Grid then this would have a devastating effect on the considerable migratory birdlife that is currently found in the area. As such, there must be an enforceable commitment that no work at all will be done at Pegwell during November to February to protect the migratory overwintering bird population.

I would appreciate that these responses be taken into account as part of your decision-making in respect of this damaging National Grid project.

Yours sincerely

Geoff Haworth

