

jacqui Brown<[REDACTED]>

South East Anglia Link

From: Jacqueline Brown, [REDACTED],

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I hope you are well, and thank you for the opportunity to make comments on and ask for further information on this application from National Grid to build the Sealink project between Suffolk and Kent. This project would have catastrophic environmental consequences for both these areas, but my particular concern is the impact on Minster marshes and Pegwell Bay in Kent.

I wish to request further information on the following areas:

Paragraph 3 - Benthic migration condition plan, I support Natural England's and Kent Wildlife Trust's view that water tight assurances of mitigation before harm takes place, and stringent monitoring is enforced with heavy financial consequences for National Grid for any breaches. I would like to receive further information on how National Grid intends to achieve this condition, and ensure that it is working and if it doesn't what they have planned to rectify this.

Paragraph 4 - Intertidal features Sandwich Bay to Hacklinge Marshes SSSI, I agree with Natural England and Kent Wildlife Trust that damage to the SSSI caused by the Nemo Link is having a far reaching ongoing impact. I have significant concerns regarding National Grid's methods to prevent harm and a cumulative to the SSSI consequences on the SSSI. I also wish to remind you that National Grid wants to bring a third cable in through Pegwell Bay, which would cause further environmental harm to add to that which has already been caused by the Nemo Link project.

Paragraph 5 - Chalk Habitat and EN-1 para 5.4.53, National Grid agrees that the chalk is irreplaceable. I ask that the Minister explicitly applies the whole exceptional reasons and compensation test in her decision making.

Paragraphs 6 - 7 - Hovercraft at Pegwell Bay, I support Natural England that a worse case assessment of impact on wildlife, especially the seal population is crucial. And I agree with Kent Wildlife Trust's request for advance notification of use of the hovercraft and that there is ongoing rigorous monitoring.

Paragraph 16 - Breeding birds Sandwich Bay to Hacklinge Marshes, there must be a commitment from National Grid not to work during the breeding season from March to September at the SSSI to avoid disturbance of breeding birds. The inclusion of their words 'after a nest check' needs to be removed. They have already put up a site office next to a barn owl box on Minster marshes which was in use by barn owls. So I have no confidence in their commitment to protecting breeding birds.

Paragraph 19 - Overhead - line collision monitoring, I support Kent Wildlife Trust's call for diverters to be fitted to power lines before the start of the project, and not retrospectively after collisions between birds and power lines have occurred. I also support Kent Wildlife Trust's stance that there should be a five year monitoring period, not the two year one that National Grid has asked for.

Paragraph 21-22 - Hazel dormouse, Kent, I would like to see as Natural England has called for further surveys undertaken, as Kent is a key stronghold for our native dormouse.

Paragraphs 26 and 33 - Unexploded ordnance (UXO), National Grid needs to respond to Natural England's point that intertidal detonation of UXO will require habitat restoration, assurances that this would take place needs to be included.

Paragraph 28 - Saltmarsh and mudflat access routes, the access routes and the width of the access routes should be agreed before consent for the application is given, not afterwards.

Paragraph 32 - No Pegwell landfall works between November and February, National Grid have said that this only applies 'below mean high water springs' meaning work at Pegwell Bay, including the hoverport could go ahead in winter. There cannot be any work at all from November to February to ensure there is no harm to wintering migratory birds from the project.

Paragraph 44 - Tourism in Kent and Suffolk, National Grid has not carried out an in depth assessment of the impact of the project on tourism in Kent and Suffolk and the compensation they have offered to the communities is an insult. They have said that Thanet's tourism industry will not be impacted. I totally disagree with their views, people come to enjoy the peace and tranquility of the Minster marshes, Pegwell Bay, Sandwich Bay reserve and Hacklinge marshes and to be immersed in nature and engage with wildlife and birds. Wildlife tourists spend money in the surrounding towns and villages and are an integral part of their economies.

Paragraph 55 - Converter station noise (Minster 9B and 11, inside requirement 18; Friston 1B excluded), I support Kent Wildlife Trust's call for ongoing monitoring to identify any breaches and mitigation failures that need to be addressed.

Thank you for listening to my concerns and views.

With kind regards,

Jacqueline Brown

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