

Peter Smith [REDACTED]

South East Anglia Link

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Dear Planning Inspectorate.

I wish to reply to the Secretary of State's paragraph 12, on Agriculture and Soils, Kent under SoS questions asking for Natural England to review Kent ALC survey results.

The Converter Station location sits on the former sea channel that separated Thanet from England and was up to 200 feet deep. When the English Channel became fully open this channel gradually silted up with alluvial deposits eventually producing a flat area of solid looking soil, which is in fact a thin skin over a blanchmange some 150 to 200 feet deep. This has not been compacted by glacial action and is unable to carry any weight as it becomes liquid and displaces sideways disrupting the limited natural drainage that has built up over a very long time.

The engineering reports say that the Converter Station will need a stone platform raised up to 2 meters above flood level, which will be extremely heavy after allowing for sinkage during construction this alone will displace vast amounts of the blanchmange over a larger area and also will disturb deposits of salt and other unwanted elements, affecting neighbouring land. This is not standard and the heavy construction equipment will also cause sinkage and disruption over a much larger area.

Returning this land to farming at its original ALC grade will need a lot of care and checking over many years for salt, acidity, drainage and contaminants over a wide area including reservoirs. There will need to be a legal requirement to fix what has been damaged.

Yours sincerely

I P A Smith

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