

[REDACTED]

South East Anglia Link

PLANNING ACT 2006

APPLICATION BY NATIONAL GRID ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION FOR ORDER
GRANTING DEVELOPMENT CONSENT FOR SEA LINK

PINS REFERENCE EN020026

INTERESTED PARTY REFERENCE : [REDACTED]

SUBMISSIONS BY GEORGE COOPER {deadline 22 October 2026}

3 Benthic mitigation plan condition Support Natural England and KWT's stance that mitigation for damage is secured before harm takes place. Monitoring is critical thereafter.

4 Intertidal features Sandwich Bay to Hacklinge Marshes SSSI Agree with Natural England and KWT that damage to the SSSI caused by Nemo Link is far reaching and is still ongoing. Have significant concerns about National Grid's approach to preventing harm and the cumulative impact on the SSSI. Reminder that National Grid want to bring a third cable in through Pegwell Bay!

5 Chalk habitat and EN-1 para 5.4.53 The chalk is irreplaceable as National Grid themselves agree. We ask that the Minister expressly applies the wholly-exceptional-reasons and compensation test in her decision-making.

6-7 Hovercraft at Pegwell Bay Support Natural England's request for worst case assessment of impact on wildlife (including seal population) and KWT's request for advance notification of use of the hovercraft and ongoing monitoring.

13 Converter station design including Minster National Grid has still not chosen a design and wants to retain the ability to have four options on the table. How can the Minister make a decision about this DCO when NG hasn't decided what the converter station is going to look like and its visual impact on the landscape (and any associated construction issues)?

16 Breeding birds Sandwich Bay to Hacklinge Marshes SSSI National Grid must commit to no working from March to September at the SSSI to avoid disturbing breeding birds. Their inclusion of the words 'after a nest check' should be taken out. They have already put up a site office next to a barn owl box on Minster Marshes that we know was in use by barn owls. Last year 2025 it was one of the only Barn Owl pairs in Kent to

successfully raise a brood. 4 chicks were ringed by licenced bird ringers associated with Kentish Stour countryside Partnership.

19 Overhead-line collision monitoring Support KWT's request for diverters fitted to power lines from the start, not after collisions have happened. Also support KWT's request for five years of monitoring, not the two that NG are suggesting. In 2003 just a short distance west of the proposed new pylons 179 Mute swans died after colliding with N.G powerlines. A scientific study carried out by the RSPB at Dungeness in the late 60s early 70s found that over 74 species of birds have been found died or injured after colliding with powerlines.

21-22 Hazel dormouse Kent Agree with Natural England that further surveys are needed.

26 and 33 Unexploded ordnance National Grid have not responded to Natural England's point that intertidal detonation of UXOs may need habitat restoration. This must be included in their commitments

28 Saltmarsh survey and mudflat access routes Access locations and widths of access routes should be agreed before consent is granted, not afterwards.

32 No Pegwell landfall works November to February National Grid have stated that this only applies 'below mean high water springs' meaning works at Pegwell Bay, including near the hoverport, could still go ahead in winter. There must be no work at all at Pegwell during November to February to protect the migratory overwintering bird population.

44 Tourism in Kent and Suffolk National Grid have not carried out any proper assessment of impact on tourism and the compensation they have offered our community is derisory. They have said that Thanet's tourism industry won't be impacted. We disagree.

55 Converter station noise (Minster 9B and 11 inside Requirement 18; Friston 1B excluded) Support KWT's call for monitoring and mitigation if noise limits are breached.