

Ann Dowling [REDACTED] >

South East Anglia Link

[?]

Interested Party Reference number: [REDACTED]

Dear Secretary of State

Please find my responses to your Request for Information regarding the South East Link Project.

Paragraph 3. Benthic mitigation; Paragraph 4. Intertidal features Sandwich Bay to Hacklinge Marshes SSSI; Paragraph 5. Chalk habitat and EN-1 para 5.4.53. These paragraphs concern the damage and destruction to natural habitat. I agree and support Natural England's and Kent Wildlife Trusts stance that the mitigation for damage must be secured before harm takes place and the importance of monitoring. This is made more important because of the damage caused to the Sandwich Bay to Hacklinge Marshes SSSI by the Nemo Link is severe and ongoing. National Grid's approach to preventing harm to these unique habitats and the ongoing and cumulative impact on the SSSI give rise to great concern. Chalk Habitat is irreplaceable. The wholly exceptional reasons and compensation test should be applied by the Minister when making the decision.

Paragraph 16. Breeding Birds Sandwich Bay to Hacklinge Marshes SSSI. National Grid must commit to no working from March to September to avoid disturbing breeding birds. Their total disregard for the wildlife area has already been noted by the erection of a site office next to an inhabited Barn Owl box at Minster Marshes. Could they really be trusted with a nest check? the words 'after a nest check' should be removed.

Paragraph 19. Overhead-line collision monitoring. Diverters should be fitted to the power lines from the start as retro-fitting them will just add to the cost of the project. It doesn't take a huge amount of common sense to realise that where there are large congregations of wildfowl that there will be unnecessary collisions. National grid suggests that two years of monitoring would be sufficient, even Kent Wildlife Trusts request for five years is barely adequate.

Paragraph 28. Saltmarsh survey and mudflat access routes. It is essential that the widths of access routes and locations are agreed before consent is granted so that everyone can see what is expected rather than developers making up their own rules after consent as there is really nothing to stop them doing exactly what they want.

Paragraph 32. Pegwell Bay landfall works. To protect the international migratory overwintering bird population there should be no work at all at Pegwell Bay. If National Grid does not like this , they should find a less destructive way to fulfill their objectives.

Paragraph 44. Tourism in Suffolk and Kent. I love this area of my country but to see this wanton destruction of my countryside and wildlife will not encourage me to return again. National Grid has no idea of the harm which this scheme will cause to the humans and the wildlife which live in this area or what people enjoy in this area which encourages them to visit it.

Chapter 55. Converter station noise. Noise from converter stations is very often underestimated. Wildlife is very susceptible to this noise and it is highly unpleasant to humans. I support Kent Wildlife Trusts call for monitoring the noise but not only with mitigation measures if noise limits are breached but also with a financial penalty if this is possible. It really does make for a miserable life to be a victim of this type of noise.

Yours sincerely

Annie Dowling