From: [redacted]
To: South East Anglia Link
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Late submission re Sea Link, from Ward Councillor Abi Smith
Date: 28 October 2026 16:04:59

For the attention of the Rt Hon Miatta Fahnbulleh MP, Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero

Dear Secretary of State,

Sea Link Development Consent Order (EN020026)

I write as a Thanet District Council ward councillor for the Thanet Villages, which includes Minster, to ask you to refuse development consent for Sea Link in its current form. I recognise this arrives after your consultation has closed, and I would be grateful if you would accept it at your discretion.

I spoke at the open floor hearings in November 2025 and March 2026, and set out my concerns in writing [REP1-166]. My question to you is the one I put to the Examining Authority: why Minster Marshes?

Why build a converter station of this scale on a flood-prone marsh, requiring some 40,000 lorry loads of aggregate and 20-metre concrete columns that may or may not reach bedrock? Why destroy one of the last refuges for wildlife in Thanet, Kent's most densely populated district?

- Wildlife: the marshes at Minster support **32 red-listed bird species**. Last year they accounted for 90% of Kent's ringed woodcock and jacksnipe and half of its ringed skylarks. Kent Wildlife Trust confirms the existence of critically endangered European eels here. The marshes are functionally linked to Pegwell Bay, which carries SSSI, Ramsar, SAC and National Nature Reserve status. The bay itself, and its rewilded Hover Port, are also threatened by Sea Link.

- Residents: four years of construction, seven days a week, and **40,000 lorry movements** at minimum. Green space where people walk and find peace will be buried under concrete, and tourism damaged.

- Carbon: concrete production accounts for around 8% of global CO2 emissions. This scheme would replace a **natural carbon sink** with **one of the most carbon-intensive materials in construction**, ironically in the name of net zero.

I deeply and passionately support the transition to clean energy. But this site appears to have been chosen because it is the cheapest, not because it is the only option. I ask you to require National Grid to demonstrate that every viable alternative has been exhausted before one of Thanet's last wild places is lost.

If you are nonetheless minded to grant consent, I ask that the Order secure, at a minimum:
- no construction in sensitive habitats during the bird nesting and overwintering seasons;
- meaningful involvement of Thanet District Council and Minster Parish Council in discharging the requirements;
- a construction liaison group with local representation; and
- habitat restoration and community benefit directed to the communities that will bear the impact.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Abi Smith
Thanet Villages Ward, Thanet District Council
Interested Party ref: [redacted]

Cllr Abi Smith, Thanet Villages

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