From: [redacted]
To: South East Anglia Link
Subject: My written objection fo planning by Sea Link ....
Date: 27 September 2026 16:48:04

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Dear Sir / Madam

Subject: Formal Objection to the Sea Link Project (Kent Onshore Scheme) – Irreversible Environmental and Community Impact on Pegwell Bay and Minster Marshes
To the Sea Link Project Team / Examining Authority,
I am writing to formally register my strongest objection to National Grid's Sea Link proposals regarding the Kent Onshore Scheme.
As both a resident of Ramsgate and a local business owner within the town, I am deeply invested in the future, heritage, and economic well-being of the Thanet community. While I fully recognise the global importance of transitioning to renewable energy, it is fundamentally counterproductive to industrialise irreplaceable natural habitats and decimate the local environment in the name of a green transition.
The proposed landfall at **Pegwell Bay** and the construction of a massive converter station at **Minster Marshes** will inflict catastrophic, permanent damage on landscapes of international ecological significance that directly define our area. I urge the Planning Inspectorate and National Grid to reject these plans based on the following grounds:

1. **Impact on the Ramsgate Community and Local Economy:** Ramsgate's economy and lifestyle are intrinsically tied to our coastal heritage, eco-tourism, and natural environment. Transforming nearby Pegwell Bay—a cherished local landmark—into an industrial cable landfall site directly devalues our local landscape. As a business owner, I am highly concerned about how years of heavy industrial construction, increased HGV traffic, and environmental degradation will impact local economic confidence, resident well-being, and visitor footfall to our town.
2. **Sacrificing Internationally Protected Sites at Pegwell Bay:** The proposed landfall site cuts directly through **Sandwich and Pegwell Bay National Nature Reserve**. This area holds statutory **SSSI, RAMSAR, SAC, and Special Protection Area (SPA)** statuses. Laying heavy subsea cables through this delicate coastal ecosystem will cause severe, lasting disruption to its saltmarshes, local seal populations, and thousands of overwintering migratory birds that call our coastline home.
3. **Industrialisation of Minster Marshes:** Building a 28-metre-high, 90,000-square-metre industrial converter station—alongside an adjacent substation and heavy pylons—will utterly devastate the Stour Valley landscape. This massive concrete footprint is entirely inappropriate for functional, flooding marshland. The required 40,000 lorry loads of aggregate and extensive foundation piling will irreversibly alter the hydrology of the land and bring immense disruption to our local road networks.
4. **Severe Threat to Critical and Endangered Species:** Minster Marshes is a vital stronghold for biodiversity, supporting **37 red-listed bird species**. Furthermore, conservation groups like the Kent Wildlife Trust have confirmed the presence of the **critically endangered European eel** (*Anguilla anguilla*) within the marsh waterways. The construction of a 1km haul road with dozens of water crossings will

permanently fragment this habitat and decimate these vulnerable populations.

5. **Disregard for Viable, Less Damaging Alternatives:** National Grid has failed to demonstrate a genuine application of the Mitigation Hierarchy, which legally requires developers to *avoid* environmental harm first. Viable brownfield and industrial alternative paths exist—such as routing the infrastructure through the **Isle of Grain** or utilizing an offshore integrated grid—which would protect Kent's natural heritage. Choosing Minster Marshes simply because it represents a cheaper onshore shortcut is completely unacceptable.

Once these marshes and designated coastal reserves are industrialised, they are gone forever. As someone who lives, works, and runs a business here, I urge you to protect our community and environment, and demand that National Grid rethinks Sea Link.

Yours sincerely,

Christine Isteed
Artist Partners Limited
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