From: Vanessa Culliford
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2026 11:56
To: South East Anglia Link
Subject: Fw: Your request for comment on NG担 application to build Europe担 Biggest Converter station on a wildlife Corridor adjacent to the UK担 most significant and important protected area

> You don't often get email from [redacted]

Dear Secretary of State

I am a resident of 31 years in Cliffsend; the village most affected by the proposed construction of a converter station by National Grid.

I have written several times, in various formats on the absolute devastation the construction will cause to Pegwell Bay, life for residents of Cliffsend and surrounds and the absolute lack of understanding of wildlife corridors and our local area and function as a unique and invaluable natural area in these very worrying times for nature and species. My local MP initially appeared to oppose the development of but has gone completely silent since her promotion

Here are my thoughts on the areas you would like clarification on;

3.
Benthic mitigation plan condition

I suggest that mitigation for any damage is gained before harm takes place. I witness from my own visits to the site that damage has already been caused by groundwork and bad placement of plant and site offices.
I believe Natural England and KWT take the same stance on this matter.

4. Intertidal features
Sandwich Bay to
Hacklinge
Marshes SSSI

I agree with Natural England and KWT that damage to the SSSI caused by Nemo Link is far reaching and is still ongoing. The Nemo link has significantly altered the ecological state of the area and NG seem blaze over this, suggesting it will fix itself eventually. I have deep concerns about National Grid's approach to preventing harm and the cumulative impact on the SSSI. You may need to be reminded, this whole project is not the cheapest option but most definitely the most ecologically damaging.

5. Chalk habitat and
EN-1 para 5.4.53

The chalk is irreplaceable as National Grid themselves agree, this is a totally unique area. I ask that the Minister expressly applies the wholly-exceptional-reasons and compensation test in her decision-making.

6-7 Hovercraft at Pegwell Bay

There are no longer hovercraft nor an active Hoverport in Cliffsend. What we do have is a beautiful and diverse rewilded unofficial nature reserve abutting a SSSi area.
I 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. The built structure of the Hoverport is broken and built on a bed of highly polluting coal slurry which cannot be disturbed without major damaged and pollution

13. Converter station design including
Minster

I understand National Grid has not yet chosen a design for the converter station and wants to retain the ability to have four options on the table.is this correct? 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)? This makes no sense; will the least disturbing visually and audibly be chosen to protect migratory birds and local residents ?

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. The inclusion of the words 'after a nest check' is laughable and shows their complete lack of understanding of the habitat of Minster Marshes and adjoining areas. I publicly shared pictures of a site office erected next to a barn owl box on Minster Marshes that I know was in use by barn owls. This is indicative of NG lack of care or understanding. The significance, importance and protection of this whole area and Pegwell Bay for wildlife should be an absolute priority and made very clear to NG

19. Overhead-line collision monitoring

This frightens and causes me sleepless nights - the thought of 100 of 1000 of birds being put at risk of death by power lines not fitted with Diverters is, in my mind, criminal
I strongly support KWT's request for diverters to be 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 proposing

21-22 Hazel Dormice Kent

Considering the local habitat and evidence I have personally seen I strongly agree with Natural England that further surveys are needed

26 and 33 Unexploded Ordnance

I understand that 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 and, unlike with the NEMO link, reparations must be thorough

28 Saltmarsh survey and mudflat access routes

Sadly, I have seen many survey staff for NG walking thoughtlessly in and on Pegwell Bay, disturbing wildlife and causing anguish amongst the local community! Access locations and widths of access routes should absolutely 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; this would be catastrophic for our overwintering and migratory bird populations. You need to visit here and listen at night to the 1000 of birds migrating over Cliffsend; it was always an absolute delight to hear; now it makes me cry. I think of these birds supreme efforts to travel globally each year for food, shelter and rest and then I see NG making terrible ecocidal decisions about these birds lives. There absolutely 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 Kent community is derisory.
Apparently NG have said that Thanet's tourism industry won't be impacted. I can assure you this is incorrect. People travel far and wide to Pegwell Bay and Sandwich Bay for wildlife, bird watching and rest and relaxation in nature. We have Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory positioned south of the Stour Estuary; this is specifically located here for the BTO to study the myriad of species of birds, insects and reptiles which pass through this area. The observatory is a very popular overnight destination for visiting naturalists. NG clearly have no idea of the significance and importance of Eco Tourism
Suffolk I understand has had a similar derisory offer. Again, Suffolk has a huge and varied supply of tourist attractions; far removed from city life and very much based on nature, history relaxation, countryside and sea

Converter Station Minster 9B. and 11 inside
Requirement 18;
Friston 1B excluded)

I support KWT's call for monitoring and mitigation if noise and light limits are breached. Personally I believe these limits should be closely monitored and should be kept to an absolute minimum

Please look at the costs again, to the government and to nature/our planet. There are more advanced and cheaper technologies - please don give in to big business

Kind regards

Vanessa Culliford
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Cliffsend, UK