Submission ID: S77B407A0

This is a heartfelt plea to reject the planning permission for this project.
I have lived in the Thanet area since a child and have used and still use Pegwell Bay Reserve and Minster Marshes. My friend and I are bird lovers and regularly walk at both sites enjoying the wildlife.
I personally do not understand why both the site in Suffolk and here in Kent were chosen to bring the cables ashore. Both sites run either close to or through nature reserves, the one at Pegwell Bay is a SSSI site. Minster Marshes is an important area for over wintering and summer migrating birds. Pegwell Bay has a list of titles which I am sure you are already aware of including as I have already mentioned a Site of Special Scientific Interest. The landfall of the cables is within the North East Kent Marine Protected Area. How can these titles be awarded to places and then be totally ignored by the planners and private companies. The site is still recovering and bears the scars from the previous pipeline which was brought ashore here. Chalk is irreplaceable. Both Minster Marshes, Pegwell Bay and the beach on the Western Undercliffs are recreational areas that allow people to enjoy the open spaces, wonderful wildlife, fresh air, sand and sea life. National Grid say that Thanet's tourism will not be impacted and I do not agree. The hoverport is easily accessible to the disabled with wheelchairs and people with walking difficulties because of the slopes. It gives them a closer view of the birds roosting in the reed/grassy area on the right of the Hoverport. Once the aggregate is dumped on the hoverport the rainfall runoff from it will wash into the bay contaminating the area. There is also the problem with the condition of the concrete at the hoverport. The concrete was laid many years ago and is deteriorating allowing for rewilding with many varieties of flowers including orchids, these with the insects will disappear under this mass storage area. The concrete will deteriorate further with the weight of the aggregate and lorry movement and flakes or chips of concrete will be washed into the bay quicker and in larger quantities. This area is one of our rare salt marsh and should be prized and not destroyed. There should be no work on the Hoverport and Pegwell Bay from November to February to protect over the wintering bird populations.
On the human side, the project will be destroying and disturbing a large area with the constant noise disruption during the construction by heavy vehicles, which will have their sound amplified by the cliffs as they dump the aggregate on the hoverport. This will mean disruption on the roads as these vehicles move their heavy loads around, using one of the main access roads to Ramsgate. Minster Marshes are a groundwater flood zone surrounded by ditches. The marsh area is not suitable for the very large heavy building proposed. The disruption to this area would be enormous, the lorries, the huge amount of aggregate that will be needed to support the building. The extra pylons at varying heights that will be added will kill even more birds, and we loosing swans are a large rate. We will lose even more birds due to the destruction of their environment, including endangered skylarks and red listed turtle doves. There is also the extra noise and light from the Converter station. I am discussed that the National Grid have already started to work in the area, surveying apparently. They have placed their site office next to an in use barn owl box which is now no longer in use, no consideration for the wildlife. There should be clauses to ensure they do not work during March to September to avoid disturbing breeding birds.
Minster Marshes is a flood plain if we concrete over it where will the water run to? The converter station would be build next to Minster Stream which flows into the tidal River Stour increasing the water levels. Sea levels are due to increase over the next fifty years and this will put low lying area such as Sandwich at risk of flooding as in 2013.
There are also many invertebrates and mammals including many species of bats, otters and beavers who live on the Minster marshes and surrounding area. This would destroy their habitat; it would decrease the number of flying insects which would affect the swallows and bats. There will also be a loss archaeology particularly Roman, as both St Augustine and Julius Caesar landed in this area. There is a Roman fort documented that has yet to be found.
I again give you a heartfelt plea to reject the planning permission for this project there will be more problems than it's so called green credentials justify.