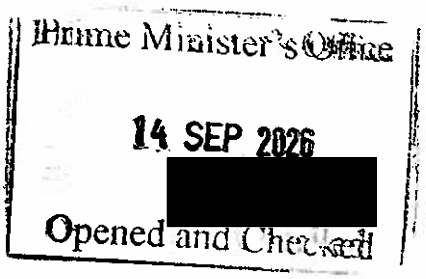
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Urgent RFI Response:
Sea Link EN20026

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08th September 2026.

To the Right Hon. Andy Burnham,

Please could you take a few minutes to read my letter.

We have a really special area of Thanet that is under serious treat from the National Grid Sealink project.

Kent Wildlife trust, Bird wise, Save Minster Marshes and others are trying to get National Grid to find an alternative route for the cable linking Suffolk and Kent.

The cable will come through Pegwell Bay which is a National Nature reserve and is also a special protection area and special area of conservation, a SSSI site. Pegwell Bay is also a RAMSAR designated site and we have a SSSI site that will be affected by the Converter station site.

I'm worried about the noise and light pollution from the Converter Station and the fact that it will be nearly 28 meters high. This will be visible for miles around.There will be Super Pylons and 2.25km of new overhead Cables crossing the Marshes and the River Stour, risking bird strike for the migratory birds. On a recent bird count there were 110 species of birds recorded (19 of which are on the UK red list).

The Converter station and sub station will be built on 13 hectares of valuable wildlife rich habitat and will need to be built up on a 2 meter high platform of aggregate to avoid flooding and also concrete pillars 20 Meters deep to stabilise the Marsh land that the Converter station will be built on. The Marshes are a natural flood plain and when this is gone, places down river will flood, including Sandwich which has been centimetres away from flooding before.

I feel this is being built here as it is the cheapest option for National Grid but it will be devastating to these nationally and internationally protected conservation sites. I know this area can never be adequately mitigated for. We already live with the unmitigated damage, in Pegwell Bay, from when the Nemo link was laid in 2017.

I'm concerned that National grid have failed to provide suitable assessments on the environmental impacts of this proposed project.

I must stress that I am in support of renewable energy but not at such a cost to wildlife and these special conservation areas. Particularly when there are alternative sites available.

These are beautiful areas that are under threat. They are a superhighway for migratory birds. Birds such as Turnstones, Sanderlings and Grey Plover rely on the mud flats and salt marsh of Pegwell Bay. We also have the largest haul-out of Common Seals in Kent and Grey Seals visit the area too. These will be disturbed by the Sealink work.

We have Nightingale, Grey Plovers, Turtle Dove, Peregrine, Raven, all species of Owl, Yellow Hammer, Beaver, Water Voles, Brown Hare and so many more species of animals and birds use the Marshes and Pegwell Bay.

Also under threat now is the abandoned Hoverport which has been reclaimed by nature. This area has Lizard orchid and Bee orchid. If the Converter Station is built on Minster Marshes we will be losing some of the only remaining green space in Thanet. Surely green energy shouldn't be at such a cost to the very thing we are trying to protect, Nature.

Please help us to save this really special place. It will be such a huge loss to our wildlife and local people who use these few remaining areas of green space.

Thank you for your time,

Yours Faithfully,

Sharon Fane.

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