From: Mike Demetriou <[redacted]>
Sent: 09 September 2026 11:32
To: Secretary of State ([redacted]) <[redacted]>
Subject: URGENT/ Pre-Decision Representation – Sea Link Project (Case Ref/ EN020026)

Dear [redacted]

URGENT: Pre-Decision Representation – Sea Link Project (Case Ref: EN020026)

Dear Secretary of State,

I am writing to you as a resident of East Thanet regarding the upcoming final determination for National Grid's Sea Link project (**EN020026**). I welcome your appointment as Secretary of State and your department's focus on a fair, community-centric transition to clean energy. However, I am writing to urgently request that you withhold consent for the current onshore proposals for Sea Link.

As the formal Planning Inspectorate examination period has concluded, I am submitting this representation directly to your office to highlight critical, high-impact developments occurring on the ground right now that require your personal intervention before a final decision is made this autumn.

Of gravest concern to the local community is that National Grid has already initiated a large-scale program of physical works on site, despite not yet having secured your formal Development Consent Order. We are currently witnessing widespread vegetation clearance, heavy machinery deployment, and a significant program of archaeological removal across the site. Furthermore, National Grid has begun laying extensive temporary road matting and installing temporary river crossings across sensitive waterways.

This aggressive, pre-emptive activity is causing immediate harm to the Minster Marshes and the wider Stour Valley ecosystem. I urge you to consider the following points before signing off on this project:

- **Pre-Emptive Ecological Damage:** Minster Marshes is a highly sensitive wetland habitat. The heavy equipment, massive scale of road matting, and vegetation removal are already disrupting vital wildlife corridors, clearing large areas of vegetation and local biodiversity and collapsing banks of waterways before the project has even been legally approved.

- **Environmental Degradation:** The current onshore routing threatens highly sensitive ecosystems, including the Stour Valley and Minster Marshes wetland habitats, and Pegwell Bay. All of which make up an internationally important habitat and migration rouute for a large number of red listed bird species and mammals such as Grey Seals, Beaver, Water Voles, Dormice and Hare. The scale of this industrial build is entirely incompatible with local biodiversity targets and wildlife protections and the wildlife displaced from this and surrounding area by noise and light pollution, will not just be able to move elsewhere. .
- **Current Irreversible Landscape Alteration:** The ongoing archaeological removals and physical river crossings are fundamentally altering a protected landscape. National Grid's actions are treating your department's eventual democratic decision as a foregone conclusion and are a cynical and predatory attempt to make this decision a fait accompli.
- **Availability of Better Alternatives:** National Grid had other much less environmentally damaging options to choose from, but chose the current one as it was originally thought to be the cheapest. National Grid sun these were considered but have still not provided any substantive evidence that any were properly considered before opting for Pegwell Bay and Minster Marshes. Now that the full implications of trying to build a vast concrete raft in a marshland subject to heavy flooding have been realised, the costs for the enormous amount of piling work needed have driven up the price from £1.2bn to £3.1bn - a staggering waste of taxpayers money. The examination process demonstrated that a fully integrated offshore grid solution is also technically viable. Co-ordinating infrastructure under the sea would drastically reduce the destructive footprint on our onshore communities while still achieving the government's vital renewable energy goals.
- **Original Justification Void:** the original justification for this project presented to the previous Conservative government has now been shown to be flawed and has been largely superseded by other projects. With the costs already having nearly trebled to a staggering £3.1bn, this project represents extremely poor value for the government and taxpayers.
- **Effect on Local Community:** Thanet is a coastal economy depending highly on tourism and farming. It is effectively an island bounded on three sides by the sea and on the other by a river. There are two main routes in and out of Thanet, both of which are very busy. The scale of lorry and heavy plant movements over the seven years of this project would be extremely disruptive for access to Thanet and its surrounding villages and will almost certainly damage the local tourism industry. This has already been seen by the disruption caused by the current ‘archaeological work’ going on.
- **Loss of Local Amenities**: Thanet is already suffering from over development and a reduction in green spaces for leisure and relaxation. Minster Marshes and Pegwell Bay are pretty much the last such spaces we have, and their potential loss is creating immense anger here. The fact that National Grid have already effectively begun very expensive preparatory work before a decision has even been made, is only fuelling this and reflecting very badly on the current government. As a life-long [redacted] supporter I am gravely concerned that this

going ahead will lose [redacted] this seat for a very long time, and this is made worse by the fact the our MP, [redacted], cannot now speak for us

While I fully support the nation's transition to net zero, it must not be delivered at the cost of destroying irreplaceable natural habitats and fracturing local communities, ir for the benefit of a large, multi-national private company such as National Grid.

Given that our local MP, [redacted], now holds a ministerial position within your department and faces a structural conflict of interest on this matter, I look to you directly to ensure that the voices of impacted residents are genuinely weighed. I urge you to use your powers to reject the current onshore design and mandate that National Grid return with a sustainable brownfield or offshore strategy.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this urgent matter.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Demetriou