Dear [Name] MP,

I’m writing to ask you to join me, along with Kent Wildlife Trust, Bird Wise, Save Minster Marshes, and others in **telling National Grid to “Rethink Sea Link”.**

We’re calling on National Grid to examine an alternative route for a cable linking Suffolk and Kent. Here are the facts:

* The cable will make landfall at Sandwich & Pegwell Bay, an internationally important National Nature Reserve with Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Protection Area (SPA), and Ramsar designations.
* The converter and sub stations will be built within Minster Marshes, resulting in the loss of 13ha of valuable wildlife-rich habitat.
* 2.25km of new overhead cables will be installed.

It remains a concern that decisions here are based on the cheapest cost – rather than minimising the cost to wildlife at these nationally and internationally protected conservation sites. Currently, I am not convinced that the proposed route can be adequately mitigated for; in fact, we’ve seen unmitigated damage before when the Nemo Link was laid at Pegwell Bay in 2017.

I am also concerned about the lack of ecological survey information and detailed mitigation measures which were not provided within the recently published Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR). Due to the lack of sufficient ecological information and mitigation within the PEIR, consultees were unable to provide suitable assessments of the environmental impacts during the recent statutory consultation. Therefore, I ask you to urge National Grid to resubmit their PEIR alongside an additional public consultation once the necessary ecological surveys, impact assessments, and detailed mitigation can be provided.

**I am supportive of steps taken to develop renewable energy solutions, but it must not be at the cost of wildlife – particularly when alternatives are available.**

Why do I care so much about these areas?

Of course, they’re beautiful wild places in which to enjoy a walk or some mindful, meditative moments out in nature. But beyond that, I’d like to highlight the following:

* These habitats form part of a crucial ecological superhighway (the East Atlantic Flyway) for migratory birds, connecting Sandwich & Pegwell Bay with the rest of the country.
* Birds like the turnstone, sanderling, and grey plover rely on the precious mudflats and saltmarsh here.
* The estuary of the Stour River, which comes out into Pegwell Bay, is the largest land haul-out for common seals in Kent and the site is visited by grey seals, too.
* This area is an incredible natural resource for carbon capture – which we’re running out of thick and fast.

I would urge you to find out more about the campaign at kwtg.uk/sea-link, where you can also see Kent Wildlife Trust’s response to National Grid’s Sea Link consultation. Please join me in calling on National Grid to “Rethink Sea Link”, for a cleaner, greener option and a future for these vulnerable areas.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Your name & Address

**NB: It’s important that you include your full postal address in anything you write to your MP so they know you live in their constituency.**