

My name is Victoria Sutherland, I am here representing myself and on behalf of many other local residents.

I strongly object to National Grid's proposed use of Pegwell Bay Country Park, the old Hoverport and Minster Marshes for the Sealink Project. I understand that plans have been changed to now use the hoverport to construct and maintain equipment meaning the area will be out of use to the public for at least four years.

Has a thorough ecological survey on the structure of this site and the impact on the wildlife and the local community been carried out? This site is totally unsuitable for heavy lorries and other machinery. The land is fragile and the proposed use will damage the Saltmarsh.

Pegwell Country Park and the old hoverport are unique places with rare access to disabled people. Many disabled people enjoy the area and their access will be limited or out of use for so long. Thanet is closing in fast, fields where you could see brown hare running about and Kestrel hovering above, are now full of new homes or have become construction sites. Green spaces are disappearing, traffic is increasing and services such as GP surgeries and hospitals are over stretched. The Pegwell area is a rare green space where local people can visit to improve their mental and physical health.

We visit the hoverport area regularly and get to see rare orchids; the Bee orchid, Lizard Orchid and Man orchid. Buddleah has broken through the concrete and is covered in butterflies, bees and even the hummingbird hawkmoth. We see and hear birds such as Long Tailed Tits, Greenfinch, Blue Tits, Great Tits and many beautiful seabirds. The Kestrel nests in the chalk cliffs. Each year at early summertime, Cuckoos arrive, a place they have chosen to come back to after the long migration from Africa.

I ask you to please reject the proposal from National Grid to use the old hoverport area!

Thank you!