

I am extremely concerned about National Grid's (NG) bid to acquire the site of the former hoverport at Pegwell Bay, Ramsgate. NG has shown a lack of transparency as up until now they said that the hoverport would only be used for operational monitoring and maintenance access and no civil engineering works highways works were planned and they would use existing track and hardstanding areas. I have a complete lack of trust in National Grid because of this. Thanet already experiences traffic problems and gridlock and I am very concerned how the increased work and associated lorries this will impact local residents and businesses. I question why NG did not issue a detailed consultation plan until after the consultation on the Change Request. The former hoverport is such an important area for wildlife when Thanet is distinctly lacking in space for nature. With National Grid's ambitions for Minster Marshes and much of the rich BMV farmland having been buried under housing developments. Nature is running out of places in Thanet to find a refuge. Thousands of wading birds such as dunlin, sandling, ringed plover and grey plover visit Pegwell during the winter months. Dunlin and and Ringed Plover are on the Great Britain red list of endangered species and Sandling and Grey Plover are on the amber list and have recently been identified as declining globally. Other waders include Knot, Oystercatcher, Curlew, Redshank and Black-tailed Godwit. Other rare species like Little Terns, Merlin, and Spoonbills also rely on Pegwell Bay. Alongside wildflowers Lizard Orchids identified as near threatened red list in 2015 and broomrapes, Picris broomrape is on the red list and Purple broomrape is recognized as a Red Data Book. Harbour seals that are on IUCN Red List are seen at times on the sandy areas. Various species of butterflies are found at Pegwell including the Deptford Pink which is on the Great Britain Red List. This demonstrates how important Pegwell is to many different species of wildlife that is under threat and needs to be preserved and protected from National Grid. Pegwell is also an important sanctuary for people to engage with nature which is important to mental health and well being. Thank you for listening to my views I hope that you will take them into consideration when making your decision.