

I'm writing to object to National Grid using the old Pegwell Hoverport as a compound for the Sealink project. This is a very special area that is located right next to the Sandwich and Pegwell Bay Nature Reserve. It is itself a sensitive area for wildlife as it has been left to nature to reclaim it over many years. Kestrels and Sparrowhawks use it to nest and hunt. It is one of the last remaining strongholds for breeding Greenfinch in the area. Migrant birds use it to rest and feed before and after crossing the channel including Wryneck and Hoopoe. Kingfishers also use this site as they pass along the coast in autumn and winter. The hoverport is famous for its wild orchids that grow there, including Man, Bee and more recently rare Lizard Orchids. It also has a population of reptiles including Common Lizards, Slow worms and Grass snakes.

This area is so special that it has featured in numerous wildlife films made for BBC Springwatch and BBC Countryfile over the past few years. I run guided wildlife nature walks from Ramsgate to Pegwell Bay. Part of my nature walk is around the old Pegwell Hoverport as it is a great example of nature recovery. Any closure or disruption to the area will affect these walks and will be a backwards step for nature, wildlife and tourism in the area.

The idea that this area would be taken over by heavy machinery for 4 years, depriving the local population and visitors of such a tranquil place to walk around would be appalling. National Grid needs to be more sensitive where it develops its projects so that it doesn't cause damage to wildlife and the environment.

Yours sincerely

Keith Ross