

Since the hoverport area closed, it has been rightly reclaimed by nature. This habitat now provides a sanctuary for a huge number of species that rely on this delicate salt marsh ecosystem. Additionally, this site is used by many migratory birds on their long journeys - it would be heartbreaking to take this point of respite and recovery away from them.

Access to nature, especially in our local area, is restricted at best. To remove another wild space would have a significant impact on the health and well-being of our local community, particularly those with accessibility needs. The hoverport has a slope which allows those who struggle with bumpy tracks or steps an easy way to enjoy the relaxation that nature allows.

This area is a SSSI and RAMSAR site and should therefore be protected from any sources of potential pollution. Below the thin layer of tarmac lies colliery spoils and other waste. Should heavy machinery be put on the hoverport, it will crack, causing inevitable damage to an already delicate habitat. No ecological surveys have been carried out on this area as of yet, as far as we are aware, and surely this should be considered in advance of the plans taking place?

This change will also create increased noise and light pollution in the area. This will cause a great deal of harm for the previously mentioned migrating birds, as well as those species that live on this protected area year-round. I can imagine that any people living nearby will also be concerned about this, and the impact it will have on their wellbeing and daily lives. As someone who uses this site to find peace in a noisy, bustling area of rapid development, with less than 4.4% tree cover, I am deeply saddened to hear that my space of tranquillity is at risk.

It is for these reasons that I will not support the use of this area by National Grid. The use of the hoverpoint site will cause much detriment to both human and wildlife use of this area, and this is echoed by our community - as well as Thanet District Council in their refusal of permission to use this site. The hoverport is simply not suitable for the proposed changes, and I feel that it is rather ironic considering that the SeaLink project is rooted in a need to provide more green energy to our country.

I hope you take my comments, and those of our local community, seriously and that this proposal is reconsidered.

Many thanks,
Isabella.