

I have three main concerns about National Grid's planned use of the old hoverport area in Pegwell Bay.

Firstly, this area has been claimed back by nature since the hoverport closed and is now a sanctuary for a mass of flora and fauna- including rare and threatened species. The area is also regularly used by rare birds on their migratory flights. As a member of the local RSPB group we are often being alerted to birds that are sheltering in the Hoverport area. This area is also a well-used wildlife sanctuary for many who have access difficulties as it has a slope going down for those who struggle with step access. Locals use this area to enjoy the wildlife.

My second issue with this proposal is that this area is well known to have a lot of things buried below the thin layer of tarmac (which is already breaking up) and should NG put heavy machinery onto this area it will break up completely and expose a variety of underground disasters, such as colliery spoils and other waste that was buried under the apron of tarmac. This would cause massive pollution issues in a SSSI and RAMSAR site.

My third point is that all of the additional activity proposed by NG will inevitably mean a huge increase in noise and light pollution in this area. Again, this area is a vital ground for migrating birds and this additional noise and light is going to have a detrimental impact on our large migratory populations that use this site, and the surrounding area, every year. As a keen birdwatcher, RSPB member and wildlife enthusiast in the local area I cannot support the use of this area by National Grid. It will cause huge amounts of damage, both physically and environmentally. Thanet District Council have already pointed out these issues in their refusal of permission to use the site and those who are local to the area will reiterate these points. This is not an area which is suitable for heavy machinery use.

I implore you to take these points seriously and avoid an environmental disaster in the name of 'green energy'- which it clearly is not!