

I shall, for convenience, refer to National Grid as 'NG.'

Noise and Vibration: I grew up in Margate when the Hoverport was operational. We could often hear the hovercraft arriving or leaving the Hoverport if the day was still or there was a southerly breeze. This is across the island, and demonstrates how far sound carries, even overland. The noise and vibration that NG would cause would be disastrous for the nearby inhabitants, and intolerable for the fauna of the adjacent Nature Reserve.

Amenity: This area contributes greatly to the health and wellbeing of a wide catchment, not just Minster and Ramsgate. People can frequently – every day – be seen walking, running, cycling past the old Hoverport. The Bay is frequently used by water sportspeople, such as kitesurfers; and fishermen dig for bait. There is a popular Parkrun route, well-used every Saturday of the year.

NG regards the impact on people as "insignificant." This is untrue. (If it were true, you would not have all these protests.) Closures of the King Charles III footpath, and the cycle route, up to 40 times a day is hardly insignificant – that's nearly twice per hour, even if you use a 24-hour clock.

Many people nowadays suffer from environmental anxiety, and amenities such as these are vital to their wellbeing, both mental and physical. Many scientific studies prove the influence of mental health upon the physical; and we all know how overloaded the NHS is.

Habitat: Since the closure of the Hoverport, this area has been slowly 'rewilding.' This can be seen in the presence of 'pioneer' species, such as silver birch – often among the first to recolonise. It is an ongoing process and should not be disregarded. There are also several 'red-listed' species of flora and fauna Bird-ringers have recorded many) of which we should be both proud and protective. Thanet is severely nature-depleted, especially in recent years with the accelerated house –building, in a country ranked as the most nature-depleted in Europe. We need to reverse – or, at the very least, halt – this trend. 'Green energy' projects are not 'green' if they destroy, or even severely impact, rare and internationally important habitats such as the saltmarsh here.

Furthermore, the old concrete 'apron' used in the past for the hovercrafts' launch, is not strong. Rapid breakup caused by the workings of NG would release toxic colliery waste from beneath it, into the Bay and saltmarsh.

Transparency: NG did not include the Hoverport in their Environmental Statement. They did not issue a detailed plan, until after they closed the consultation re their changes. Therefore, that is not even a proper 'consultation.' They did not include this intended use of the Hoverport in their 'statutory consultations' of late 2023.

NG is repeatedly changing – or admitting to – its plans after the event of a deadline.

NG has not carried out any ecological surveys.

NG has no apparent regard for transparency, human wellbeing, or the natural environment – vital in these days of urgency re climate change. I reiterate: 'Green energy' projects which destroy vital, carbon-capturing habitat such as saltmarsh, are not 'Green.' This area is not the best location for this project. The Head of the Clean Power Mission – recently spoken to by MP Polly Billington - needs to recognise that fact.