

I am writing as a frequent user of the hoverport site and want to explain the impact this project would have on me and the wildlife I go there to see. I am dismayed to see the plans regarding its use during the construction of the Sealink Project and the lack of clarity and ever changing plans.

If the hoverport is used as currently described, it will severely reduce access to this area having a significantly negative effect on my and others mental wellbeing. This area, that nature has now reclaimed, is very important to alleviate stress and connect with the wide open space that is Pegwell bay. The hoverport is ideally placed for dog walking - being close to the bay but far enough away from the restricted areas. The concrete areas allow for easy access across the site. The wildlife species there include rare orchid species and allowed to further naturally develop will create an even more rich environment for future enjoyment. I plan to retire soon and this area will be even more important to me then as I will want to visit every day for my mental and physical wellbeing. As a volunteer for the bumblebee conservation trust, I am drawn to identifying bumblebees and this area has had a number of bees each Spring and Summer months. Using this site for heavy traffic will destroy this wildlife rich habitat. I don't believe a full ecological survey has even been conducted to identify the species that will be devastated by this project. Surely the least that can be done is to understand what species are already there and a proper assessment of the impact of any changes?

I am also concerned about what lies underneath the hoverport structure and how that would be impacted by the movement of heavy machinery. My understanding is that there are toxins currently underneath, which if disturbed by traffic have the potential to leach out and devastate the local environment- this just cannot be allowed to happen!

I ask you to make a fully considered decision regarding the use of this site. Allowing this project to go ahead without proper surveying of what is already there (both regarding wildlife and the toxic waste underneath) is irresponsible and likely to lead to an environmental disaster.