

I have three main concerns due to the following issues:

- 1)Lack of transparency over the use of the Hoverport site
- 2)Environmental issues
- 3)The impact on health and well being

Reasons why:

1)There has been a lack of transparency throughout the ongoing proposed development with conflicting information sharing and repeatedly changing proposals. Only providing construction plans for the Hoverport at a late date in the process. A lack of detail of any planned construction makes me lose any confidence in National Grids proposals and just fuels my mistrust.

2)National Grid have failed to undertake any detailed ecological surveys or assessments of the Hoverport site. No importance has been afforded to this sites habitats and wildlife. For nearly forty years this site has lain mostly undisturbed and abandoned during this time it has been reclaimed by nature, transforming the site into a unique biodiverse area, an mosaic habitat and a thriving rewilded area. It is a home to diverse wildlife , many rare and protected species which includes birds, reptiles, insects, mammals, and plants. The area is a haven not only for native local birds but internally migratory species too. The Hoverports location is adjacent to Thanet coasts triple SSSIs (site of special scientific interest)a special protection area for birds and a Ramsar wetland site. These threatened and vulnerable species of flora and fauna warrant our protection. The Hoverport site is very fragile and historically the site was deemed a danger to the environment if disturbed. This was due to the Hoverport being built on colliery spoil. The bedrock foundations would be at risk of cracking should heavy machinery be put on it. Which could result in the release of harmful compounds inadvertently damaging the saltmarsh.

3)Health and well being

The Hoverport site is a special place visited daily by local Thanet residents and regular visitors. It is a place of quiet recreation and is accessible to the wider community. I like many others care about this valuable amenity, and enjoy all that it offers. The importance of being able to access wild open spaces and environments is well acknowledged and the benefits it is for a persons well being. Any work at this site would also have a massive impact on local residents and businesses . The road that runs past the Hoverport was made narrower in order to reduce traffic and noise pollution. This road is not built to withstand heavy industrial vehicles. This is a quiet residential area and long term construction work would massively disrupt the lives of local residents. House prices would fall and affect any prospects of selling their properties.

National Grid proposals profess to care about the saltmarsh, yet it also assessed the impact on this site as "insignificant". Without undertaking ecological surveys it would seem to me that this is very naive and begs the question how does national grid believe they can carry proposed work on this protected site and not cause any long lasting damage. How does it propose to "avoid rare species". Promoting green energy is necessary but it should not be at any cost, especially leading to the loss and destruction of natural wildlife sites like the Hoverport.

This site is both ecologically and geologically important in a country that is already nature depleted it is essential that we all do more to protect these special places