

Written Representation related to CR1 – change 1 – change to access at the hoverport, Kent.

Planning Inspectorate ref: EN020026

My ID: [REDACTED]

In REP1A-091 I outlined in detail my objections to not only the change of access at the Hoverport but explained why I believe the Hoverport should not be used at all.

Without wishing to repeat previous submissions but the key points bear repeating:

- The base of the Hoverport was built using 300,000 tons of coal spoil which is likely to contain heavy metals.
- This base was covered by concrete slabs, but these are breaking up.
- The weight and frequent movements of the excavators and piling machine greatly increase the risk of heavy metals leaching into the SSSI.

At the time of writing REP1A-091 there was no evidence that the Applicant had carried out any detailed survey of the Hoverport. However, further evidence has come to light.

I have received confirmation from Thanet District Council (TDC) that a company “Edge Enviro” has been granted access to the Hoverport to carry out survey work under section 172 of the Housing and Planning Act 2016. To qualify, Edge Enviro must be carrying out this work for an “acquiring authority” which I assume, in this case, is the applicant using the powers granted to them in relation to compulsory acquisition within a Development Consent Order (DCO).

It is not clear from the correspondence with TDC when or if the survey work has been carried out but it would be very useful for all parties to know what is going on. The Applicant had decided by July 2024 that it was intending to use the Hoverport for heavy construction vehicles so one assumes that carrying out a survey to check its suitability would have been a priority for the applicant.

To help illustrate how bad the deterioration is already I have attached 4 photographs taken today, 19th January 2026 at the Hoverport:



Heavy erosion next to pipe outfall exposing possible coal spoil below.



What appears to be coal shale can be seen at the bottom of this hole.



The edge of the apron is breaking away.



Serious deterioration of the apron with the proposed outfall in the distance.

I urge the Ex. A to reject the use of the Hoverport because of the serious risk of pollution and loss of habitat and ask that the Ex. A seeks clarification from the Applicant on the progress or lack of it regarding the survey by Edge Enviro.

David Stevens. Pegwell and Cliffsend resident.