
Ex Ramsgate Hoverport / Sealink Project

From [REDACTED] >
Date Tue 2026-04-28 21:38
To South East Anglia Link <SouthEastAngliaLink@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>

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Dear Inspectorate Team

A couple of Saturday's ago I attended the Save Minster Marshes campaign presentation and event at The Viking Ship on Cliffsend which has rewilded over the past 40+ years since closing down in the early 1990's. I wont go into detail but I am sure you understand the utter frustration the people of Thanet and others are feeling regarding National Grids proposals to use the hoverport despite local peoples opposition to any such plan.

I am not sure if anyone from the Inspectorate had or took the opportunity to attend as, if you did, you would have had the chance to speak to highly knowledgeable individuals like Keith Ross, George Cooper Nik Mitchell and others who have first hand knowledge of this area and the diversity of the animal and plant species that call this site home. Before the hoverport was built (using reclaimed mining waste) is was no doubt a site rich in wildlife and to see now being taken back by nature is truly amazing! Keith Ross (environmentalist) was doing tours and enlightening everyone as to what they are looking at whether that be a rare lizard orchid, an actual lizard, a 7 year old Oak tree and a whole host of other amazing rewilding features. A lady I met had lived in the area all of her 70 years and as we walked around she introduced me to the "Merlin App" on her phone which confirmed the vast array of native and migratory birdlife using the space. It was a truly awe inspiring experience. Local knowledge is such a powerful tool. The thought that someone could be handed the opportunity to come along and simply trash this site would be an act of criminality. Not in my opinion, but pure fact! I hope you have had a tour of the hoverport site with local environmentalist (not ones appointed by National Grid) but real qualified knowledgeable ones

The current proposals by National Grid must be stopped. Sustainability is about protecting the environment, not just for our future generations but for all the other living things that call these places home. It's fantastic that we are doing what we can to create a sustainable future but must always ensure we walk hand in hand with the environment when doing so. Unfortunately lazy and cheap planning can and does reverse all the benefits.

As we all know the Sealink project is a flawed and will be very expensive which will not only cause destruction in Suffolk but here in Thanet which is sadly one of the most nature

depleted wildlife districts in the UK which itself being one of the most wildlife depleted countries globally.

I think it is fair to say there is no one in this constituency wants National Grid and the Sealink project to further erode and destroy vital irreplaceable habitats across Pegwell Bay, Cliffsend, Sandwich or the Minster Marshes. These are recognised vital habitats that are already protected by law. These are all habitats vital to many migratory birds too, who, if their usual migratory site is disturbed, simply do not breed, known as habitat lost and the main driver behind species depletion witnessed globally but especially here in the UK.

The Sealink consultation takes up vital time, too much time for Joe Public to keep up with. I should not need to remind you that "ordinary people" have many other demands to deal with such as busy working life, home life, family demands, social life with all the added worries about health and money too. That must be taken into account at all times as unlike yourselves and National Grid we have day jobs

As more deadlines laid out by the Inspectorate with limited time scales to respond, the general public simply fall away from the demands to respond put upon them and we are all weary of repeating ourselves.

We now face this deadline to yet again to read through more cleverly worded NG led documentation and repeat our views which fewer and fewer people are able to do. Not a sign of weakness but simply down to not enough time in the day for people. Local people of Thanet, Sir Roger Gale, TDC, the NGO's and wildlife representative groups and highly knowledgeable environmentalists have all made informed cases as to why NG's proposals are completely in the wrong place as is the outrageous proposal to utilise and trash the hoverport and the transport headache that will cause on all the local roads, all of which would need to be rebuilt to take large vehicles. The local people of Thanet have been asked and demonstrated their thoughts on this cheap option for an ill-thought out project which will result in complete destruction of vital natural and managed wildlife habitats but is anyone truly listening? I wonder

We need you and other legislators to stand up for the people of Thanet and our last bastions of wildlife because when its gone, its gone and it cant be mitigated from!

Best regards

Stuart

Stuart McRae

Local Resident and Manston Parish Councillor

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