Submission to Open Floor Hearing 1 - 16 July 2019

Presented on behalf of The Faversham Society by Professor Harold Goodwin

Transport and Traffic

1. Routeing: Construction plant, equipment and materials will be delivered to the site by HGV along one of three possible access routes. All three are routed via junction 7 on the M2, which is already overloaded and has a poor accident record. The Faversham Society is concerned that during the construction period any blockage at this site, or closure owing to an accident, will result in lorries being re-routed along unsuitable rural roads.

2. Safety: the proposers claim that there is a negligible risk of accidents arising from the anticipated levels of site traffic during the construction period. However, it is well known that nationally, heavy vehicles engaged on construction projects have a poor safety record particularly as regards collisions with cyclists. The freight access route along the Seasalter Road from the railway bridge to the site entrance coincides with the Sustrans National Route 1, frequently used by recreational cyclists at weekends and for the whole week during the summer months, and the proposed construction management plan does not appear to include measures for dealing with the increased risk. The lack of pavements throughout Graveney Village also poses heightened risks to pedestrians.

3. Risk to Children: The route passes a primary school whose playground and buildings are a few metres away. Only short stretches of pavement exist. Children need to cross the road to access their playing fields. The proposed vehicle movements of up to 80 per day (one every six minutes for two years, mostly during the school day) will result in unacceptable levels of noise, pollution and danger to children at the school.

4. Operation and Decommissioning: Plans need to be presented for traffic movements in the operation phase associated with battery replacements (years 7- ) and PV panel replacements (years 10-20). Failed battery cells may possibly be toxic. Similarly decommissioning is likely to lead to parallel hazards to the construction phase.

5. The Faversham Society believes that the raised levels of goods traffic will erode the quality of the environment and the quality of life for local people during the construction period, and that the associated loss of amenity is unacceptable whether or not there is residual damage. We have concerns about danger, noise,
vibration and air quality.

Professor Harold Goodwin
Chairman
The Faversham Society