From:

To:

Cleve Hill Solar Park

**Subject:** Request to participate in Open Floor Hearing 1 - 16 July 2019

**Date:** 11 June 2019 18:40:57

## **CHSP**

## Submission to Open Floor Hearing 1 - 16 July 2019

## Presented on behalf of The Faversham Society by Dr Patricia Reid Ph D

## **Archaeology**

- 1. The Graveney marshes are an artificial landscape created from the midmedieval period onwards and feature salt mounds, sheepfolds, former sea walls and early post-medieval decoy ponds with a decoy house, Kye Cottage (now demolished). None of this landscape apart from the Cleve Hill substation itself has been investigated, and this landscape deserves recognition, protection and investigation before it is overtaken by the sea in the near future.
- 2. Underneath the marsh lies a Saxon/ Roman/ prehistoric landscape of great importance, of which only minute glimpses have been achieved so far: this too must be protected.
- 3. The section of the Graveney marshes east of the lower part of Faversham Creek is especially important historically, as the route whereby Bronze Age, Roman, Saxon, Viking, medieval and modern ships have traveled on their journey to the port of Faversham. It is likely that there is much to be discovered as a result.
- 4. There is an extremely strong emotional bond between Faversham people and their Creek. The solar power station plans already set aside the eastern end of the marshes, next to the Sportsman, for birds etc. A very strong case can be made for the western section of the marshes (bordered to the east by the footpath line which goes north from Nagden farm) to be protected and joined with a) the Ham Marshes west of Faversham Creek and b) the Isle of Harty on the other side of the Swale (Harty is historically closely linked to Faversham) to form a protected Country Park. This is especially vital because of the rapid and unavoidable increase in housing over the next 10 years along the line of Watling Street (see current proposals). At present there is a danger that the marshes around the lower Creek will become a dystopian landscape.

Dr Patricia Reid PhD

Director of the Faversham Society Archaeological Research Group