

# Comments for Planning Application 22/501335/FULL

## Application Summary

Application Number: 22/501335/FULL

Address: Land North Of Little Cheveney Farm Sheephurst Lane Marden Kent

Proposal: Installation of a renewable energy led generating station comprising of ground-mounted solar arrays, associated electricity generation infrastructure and other ancillary equipment comprising of storage containers, access tracks, fencing, gates and CCTV together with the creation of woodland and biodiversity enhancements.

Case Officer: Marion Geary

## Customer Details

Name: Mrs Sue Eltringham

Address: 5 Haffenden Close, Marden, Tonbridge, Kent TN12 9TD

## Comment Details

Commenter Type: Parish

Stance: Customer objects to the Planning Application

Comment Reasons:

Comment:22/501335/FULL

I am writing to object to the land on this site being used for a large scale solar farm.

I see from the map that the size of the farm is not much smaller than the footprint of the whole village. I do not oppose the idea of solar farms in principle and am very keen that they are expanded as a way of energy production.

There is a large 'brownfield' site very close to Yalding railway station, that I understand can not be used for housing due to previous contamination of land? Could this be used as an alternative, or similar brownfield land.

My main objection is why would you construct a solar farm on land that is good enough to grow crops on ( Grade 2 , 3 a & 3b) ? I understand that as a country we need to be more self sufficient in food production, so it does not make any logical sense to be building a solar farm on land that can be used for food production. Especially with the conflict in Ukraine & the disruption to grain exports, the planning seems very short sighted.

I too am a local walker and am concerned that the solar farm would be running across a public footpath, that are there for the people to enjoy walking in the countryside. We need to be encouraging the local population to be taking physical activity and not to be making it harder, but removing public rights of way. Or making it less enjoyable , with footpaths routed through or near

solar farms. The country is in the grips of an obesity epidemic , and any public footpaths are there for walkers to use and enjoy, we should be promoting walking locally and this site would impact on local people being able to enjoy local countryside having a detrimental effect on their well being.

I would strongly back a solar farm if it can be constructed on a brownfield site , but not in the location as per this application.

Thank you