

# 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: Mr Duncan Petrie

Address: Bottom Oast, Little Cheveney, Sheephurst Lane Marden, Kent TN12 9NX

## Comment Details

Commenter Type: Neighbour

Stance: Customer objects to the Planning Application

Comment Reasons:

Comment: I object to the proposed solar farm installation.

The harms to the intrinsic and visual qualities of the landscape are substantial, both in significance and scale. It would not be mitigated by the remedial landscape proposals which seek to screen the development from view rather than integrate it into its setting in a satisfactory manner. The development represents a significant threat to the landscape with its prison-like fenced boundaries forming an unnatural hard boarder. The beauty of the Kent countryside will be lost for 30+ years, and probably forever, since there is no clear plan for what may replace the solar farm if/when it is decommissioned.

Agricultural land of this quality (2, 3a and 3b) and productivity should not be converted to industrial production of electricity. This is better situated on brownfield sites and atop the numerous industrial units nearby in Marden (Pattenden Lane) and Paddock Wood (Tranfesa Road), and which have my full support.

Food security for the UK is an increasingly important consideration and one that the government fully endorses (Government Food Strategy June 2022 - [www.gov.uk/government/publications/government-food-strategy#food-security-and-sustainable-production](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/government-food-strategy#food-security-and-sustainable-production)).

Failure to refuse this site will encourage further mass coverage of agricultural land with photovoltaic panels subsidised by the taxpayer. The efficiency of solar panels is between 11 - 15%

in contrast with off-shore wind being greater than 50%. We need to ask ourselves, do we really want our Low Weald countryside covered in such panels?