

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 Louise Ribbens

Address: 4 Little Sheephurst Cottages, Sheephurst Lane, Marden Tonbridge, Kent TN12 9NZ

Comment Details

Commenter Type: Neighbour

Stance: Customer objects to the Planning Application

Comment Reasons:

Comment: My objections of the above planning of the new solar farm in Marden are as follows:

- construction of the solar farm would displace existing wildlife;
- transitory animals have their traditional routes blocked with deer often diverting onto roads;
- the land is degraded with little potential for biodiversity as half of it will be in permanent shadow and rain water run-off creates set channels without proper dispersal;
- the land at the site has been farmed successfully since the 16th century, probably earlier and as such has historical agricultural significance;
- there are numerous listed buildings as well as ancient woodland and historic parkland that surround the site. Their setting must be protected
- the solar farm is promoted as being temporary and could be reversed after 37 years but not a guarantee. However, huge infrastructure is required on sites as large as this, including a substation and energy storage compound. Significant capital expenditure and time would be required to remove structures and footings both above and below the ground. Therefore, the reality is that there is no guarantee that the land would return to farmland and it is likely that the associated structures and 12,000m² of permanent roads would not be decommissioned.
- the Marden area has already lost much of its farmland and countryside to housing development and a solar farm (Widehurst solar farm). Any further major development is inappropriate.
- solar farms should have their place on brownfield sites, disused airfields, poor quality land, new buildings, office blocks and warehouses - not on productive greenfield land.