

FARMS FOR FARMING

Rob Jarman
Head of Planning and Development
Maidstone Borough Council
Maidstone House,
King Street,
Maidstone
ME15 6JQ

Dear Mr Jarman

REF: Marden Solar Farm planning reference 22/501335

Farms for Farming are a self interest voluntary group committed to preserving the country's valuable agricultural land for food production.

I am writing to formally lodge an objection to the proposed solar farm at Marden. The proposal from Starkraft will take 184 acres of valuable agricultural land out of food production for at least 37 years. This puts more pressure on expensive food imports thus increasing the carbon footprint of our food supply chain.

I note the application states that the option will be there to graze sheep on the land. This is nothing more than empty words, a tactic used by solar farm developers to justify the development. You can count on the fingers of one hand the number of solar farms that regularly have sheep grazing.

Farms for Farming are committed to renewable energy but solar panels belong on roofs not valuable agricultural land. Has Starkraft shown that any effort has been made to put solar on roofs on nearby industrial units and homes?

I note the planning application claims the solar farm will produce enough to power 12,500 homes. So why not put the solar farm panels on the roof of those 12,500 homes? The solar farm will produce electricity that will increasingly more expensive thereby pushing more and more of those 12,500 homes into fuel (electricity) poverty. Instead insist Starkraft put the solar farm panels on the roof of the 12,500 homes thereby making them energy (electricity) self-sufficient and protecting the residents from fuel poverty.

My I thank you for taking the time to read and consider this objection and trust you will act accordingly.

Yours Sincerely



Richard Hammond

Farms for Farming

P.R.	Correspondence?
REF:	
17 OCT 2022	
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DRAWER	