

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: Miss Deborah Hill

Address: Little Longend Cottage, Burtons Lane, Marden Tonbridge, Kent TN12 9PN

Comment Details

Commenter Type: Neighbour

Stance: Customer objects to the Planning Application

Comment Reasons:

Comment: The Garden of England...

once aptly named by King Henry VIII.

The views and objections of the owner of a Listed Building adjacent to the proposed solar farm site, who has been instructed by the Maidstone Borough Council to re-window and re-door the entire listed property as the existing windows and doors are 'offending' to the locale and the listed nature as expected by Historic England as 'having special architectural and historic interest to the area'.

Flooding:

The local area has been flooded on many occasions throughout its existence and certainly 3 times over the last 10 years, worst being Christmas Eve 2013. Supposedly a 'once in a hundred year event'. The pain is still felt within the local community.

Rain drops fall randomly, and are dispersed and soaked up by the ground. However rain falling on a solar panel would form a trench in the ground at the point of contact. Rain falling on a row of solar panels would form trenches, and these will interconnect to form a gutter. Multiple rows of solar panels will form multiple rain gutters and in a heavy downpour these will all connect and form an inevitable flow of water. The sponge effect of the land will be removed, and flooding inevitable. The local area is called Claygate for a reason, the earth under the topsoil is clay, water will flow.

Efficacy of solar panels to harness the Sun's energy in this part of the world:

Although the figures given by the energy companies sound fantastic, they are optimal figures. That is to say if the sun shone each and every day for a year these figures would be achievable. We all know the sun doesn't shine on Kent every day of the year.

Noise:

Solar farms do produce noise, not from the sun's rays hitting the panels, but from the way electricity has to be converted from DC (direct current) to AC (alternating current). In order for the electricity to be delivered to the grid, there will be inverters which are basically switches that will be switching 50 times per second (50 hertz). This does produce tonal sound waves initially at 100 hertz, then harmonics of 200 hertz 300 hertz etc.

There will be transformers, unfortunately not in disguise, whose job it is to step-up the voltage to accommodate the transmission to the grid. We all have heard a transformer at one point in our life, electrical humming noise produced by the core, coil and cooling fans. Again 100 hertz and its harmonics. This we can hear as pure-tone noise. Delivering a subconscious tinnitus to the local neighbours and folks who want to walk the 'public' right of way.

Noise is a major problem to both humans and wildlife. Living in this beautiful unspoilt part of the Kent country side is a privilege. Waking every morning to the sound of birdsong, may be taken for granted by some, however the constant background hum from the solar farm will affect all wildlife in the vicinity. Vibrations from the inverters and transformers will affect ground hugging creatures, noise in the air will affect birds and disorient bats.

There are at least 2 ancient woods in the vicinity which harbour a diverse range of wildlife. Owls and bats that hunt at night, deer that romp in the day, crawling creatures that are their prey. The open fields are their living grounds, and have been for millennia.

Constructing a solar farm on these ancient grounds will be detrimental to the local inhabitants, be them human or not.

I for one am against the construction of the solar farm and the destruction of the natural habitat.