

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 John Martin

Address: 8 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: I wish to register my objection to this application on the following grounds: -

Impact on My Property and Surrounding Properties

Solar farms dramatically alter views of the countryside:-

- Impact on my view

The supporting study concedes that these panels will be visible from upper windows of surrounding property and seems to imply this is a minimal impact. This is not the case. I have an upper floor window from a study where I work that will look directly on the panels if it is extended to the field next to my property.

- Light pollution

There will be increased light pollution with the reflections from the panels.

- Noise pollution

These panels are not silent and there will be a hum from them and the power station in addition when hot need to be cooled with noisy fans. If sited in the field next to my property this will disrupt the quiet - especially in the evening.

- Pollution

there is the possibility of toxic chemicals leaking out from the panel and lithium-ion storage is a fire risk. Cleaning chemicals for the panels will also be a source of potential pollution.

- Electromagnetic Radiation (EMF)

Little is known of the health issues related to proximity to the solar panels and the storage equipment. Moving it and the power station away will mitigate this risk.

- Negative impact on the value of my property

If placed so close to my property the solar farm is likely to have a negative impact on its value.

Environmental Impact

Overall solar farms are not environmentally friendly and inefficient compared with other alternatives such as of shore wind turbines - A 140-acre solar park is said to be capable of supplying electricity to about 9,000 homes. One wind turbine in the North Sea has the capacity to power 16,000 homes.

Loss of Farmland

We should not be losing productive farmland - studies suggest that solar farms should be limited to brownfield sites and poorer quality unproductive land - which this is not.

Flooding

The work will affect the water table which will increase the flood risk. Half of the land will be in shadow, and water run off creates channels that will disrupt normal dispersal - which will also increase the flood risk.

Wildlife

The farm will be intrusive with secured boundaries and intrusive CCTV - this will affect the natural movement of wildlife. Also, the panels can prove fatal to bats & birds as they mistake the glass for water.

Traffic

Sheephurst Lane is a busy road particularly during the day and is narrow in places - the constriction period will increase this traffic - and there will be increased ongoing traffic.

Whilst we need to find alternative energy sources this should not be prioritised above the need for agricultural land to support the growing of crops locally - which will reduce the need to import food which in turn will have a positive environmental impact.

For the above reasons I believe the application should be rejected. If it is accepted that it can go ahead it should be with the amendment of removing the panels and power station that is in the field adjacent to my property - which was accepted when I responded to the initial consultation - and the line of new trees extended across the field to shield the farm from view.