

The Planning Inspectorate

COMMENTS ON CASE (Online Version)

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Appeal Reference: APP/R3705/W/24/3349391

DETAILS OF THE CASE

Appeal Reference

APP/R3705/W/24/3349391

Appeal By

ENVIROMENA PROJECT MANAGEMENT UK LTD

Site Address

Land 800 Metres South Of Park House Farm
Meriden Road
Fillongley
Warwickshire
CV7 8BP
Grid Ref Easting: 427624
Grid Ref Northing: 286021

SENDER DETAILS

Name

Address



ABOUT YOUR COMMENTS

In what capacity do you wish to make representations on this case?

- Appellant
- Agent
- Interested Party / Person
- Land Owner
- Rule 6 (6)

What kind of representation are you making?

- Final Comments
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Other

YOUR COMMENTS ON THE CASE

This is a correction of my submission sent yesterday where this box would not enable Mt to review my submission before submission.

The correction are:

2nd paragraph line 6th line " and for NWBC"...

8TH Line.. After "greenbelt and/or BMV land" insert "from".

13th line. After "slope" amend to read "they are erected."

15th line. Delete "Neither ".

3rd paragraph. 1st line.. Delete "Irrespective of".

3rd line. Delete "and" , insert "a".

4th para. Insert "not" between "was" and "part".

The 5th par headed "This is not... can now be deleted as also can the last paragraph.

Finally the para headed " Finally" is to have added at the end " This confirms that there is no need for more solar farms a given the number of superfluous applications

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YOUR COMMENTS ON THE CASE

I reconfirm my written representations to North Warwickshire Borough Council and trust both have been forwarded to you, which I understand is the usual practice.

I reiterate that the planning application by Enviromena was materially deficient insofar as it did not contain a robust site selection process. The site is 10km from the Nuneaton substation, this give area of over 314 square kilometres. The appeal t failed to show which other sites within that area that it looked and why it discounted them as viable sites. Given the site is both within the greenbelt and is also classed as best and most versatile agricultural land the failure to show a robust selection process and fit NWBC to request such a process is tantamount to negligence. The area of 314+ sq km encompasses land in the administrative areas of Coventry, Rugby, Hinckley and Bosworth and also Nuneaton and Bedworth and potentially enables greenbelt and/or BMV land being unnecessarily used. Furthermore the site being 10km from a substation is inefficient through transmission losses and a cable route is not known and may not be feasible.

The planning application is misleading insofar as it states the solar panels face south. However because of the hilly nature of the site, and as the panels will follow the contours of the site the panel will also be orientated to either the east or the west dependent upon which side of a slope the area erected. Neither the Highway Agency and the local highways authority consultation responses are therefore likely to be inaccurate if the dual aspect of the panels was not taken into consideration. The visual impact assesment is also compromised in this respect.

The village of Fillongley has flooded on numerous occasions. Irrespective of whether or not the site development will exacerbate the situation remains uncertain. Reverting to my above point regarding the lack of a site selection process, and robust selection process may well have identified a site that poses a lower flood risk compared towards the site the subject of this appeal

I understand that the inspectorate has refused appeals where a robust site selection process was part of the planning application.

This is not part of my representation. This box will not let me review my comments and therefore I'm not sure all my representation will be received by you. Are you able to let me have a copy so that I may check? Thank you

Finally I would draw the inspectors attention to the first paragraph of a report dated 19 April2024 issue by Ofgem and headed "Update on reform to the electricity connections process following proposals from the ESO".

The planning application was also misleading on the following po

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YOUR COMMENTS ON THE CASE

Nether Whitacre Parish is a neighbouring Parish which totally supports the stance of Fillongley Parish Council against this proposal to construct a temporary Solar Farm on almost 150 acres of arable land. Whilst we understand the need to increase the level of green energy production, we believe, protection of our green belt, including versatile farmed arable land, needs to be given significant weight when considering this application. We support green energy projects using rooftops, car park canopies and brownfield sites which do not impact on our local green spaces.

The proposed development is inappropriate development in the Green Belt. The proposed site is highly visible from numerous properties, locations and roads in the Parish as it sits on high land with no surrounding higher land. It is not considered that it would preserve the openness of the Green Belt as required by Policy LP3 of the North Warwickshire Local Plan 2021 and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2023, it is not considered that the substantial harm is clearly outweighed by any benefits that the proposal might give rise to.

The cumulative harms caused are considered to be substantial because of the development's proposed size which does not lend itself to integrate appropriately into the natural environment, harmonise with its immediate and wider settings, protect the rural landscape of the Parish, the scenic aspects of the village and the setting of the Church. It does not accord with Policies FNP01 and FNP02 of the Fillongley Neighbourhood Plan 2019.

We politely request the appeal is dismissed.

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The proposed solar farm is totally inappropriate in that location. It will dominate the village and change its character in a bad way. It should not be on good quality agricultural land - we need power, but we also need food. There are so many other places where large solar farms could be placed, for example car parks, providing shade for cars in the process, a win win, particularly in locations that use a lot of power, such as Alton Towers. There are also vast numbers of industrial buildings that could be covered with solar panels, with much of the power generated being used on site. There really is no need to use locations of this type, destroying parts of the precious Green Belt.

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YOUR COMMENTS ON THE CASE

Appeal Against Planning Application for a Solar Farm in Fillongley.

Case No. APP/R3705/W/24/3349391

I have lived in Fillongley since October 2011, and find that this area is not only a picture postcard area of beauty, but in its heart are the hard-working community that live and work here.

The proposed Solar Farm would not only swamp the village dominating and over shadowing the landscape and the community as a whole, but is not in keeping with the covenants in keeping and preserving the Green Belt Land of North Warwickshire County

The area marked is an A* top grade section of PRIME FARM LAND, 150 acres in total. If this application goes ahead this farm land will be lost forever.

The carbon footprint this set up will create will far out ways the benefit and the loss to this community of more Green Belt Land.

1. The disruption of traffic during the work installing this solar farm, on the 2 main routes into and out of our village. Resulting in more CO2 emissions.
2. The transportation of all the panels, that I believe are made in Europe, will again add to the increasing Carbon Footprint. More impact on Global Warming.
3. The impact that the loss of a field this size and grading on nature our wildlife, birds, deer, muntjac as well as small rodents and the insects that are needed on our planet. These all have place and a benefit to the environment, especially as this field helps to hold back excess water from impacting as flooding to our village.
4. Flooding of our village is a main concern, as detailed in Enviromena's appeal the drainage system proposed has been withdrawn, as they don't see the need now to produce collection ponds. My opinion on this matter is Enviromena has total disregarded for this community. It is proven that this village is prone to flooding. The question should be asked on the impact this leaves on our community if this application goes ahead.
5. The danger of possible Reflection Blindness when travelling along the main B4102 and B4098. As the site is on higher land to our village. The proposed hedges may not prevent this as the roads winds as well as dips and rises especially the B4102.

I am not against alternative energy and welcome the new infrastructures that are replacing carbon fuels, but these must be placed in the most appropriate sites.

We must for our future generations protect our environment, we must be able to grow food and crops, that in turn requires our best farm lands.

We must also protect the Green Belt, Nature, and the Wildlife, these must go hand in hand.

1. **No benefit to locals:**

Despite having the Solar Farm built in our village, there will be no benefit to the people that live here. None of the electricity generated will be used to power the houses in the village and there will be no financial savings to be made. The only person who will benefit from the installation of the Solar Farm is the owner of the land, who does not live locally.

2. **Size of development:**

The Solar Farm takes over a large proportion of the overall size of the village. There is absolutely no way that we should be losing so much of the land that makes up the village. There are already other Solar Farms that have been proposed locally so protection of the remaining countryside should be of the utmost importance. The size of the area will undoubtedly change the visual nature of the countryside – the primary reason many people live out here.

Covid lockdowns showed the huge reliance and importance the open countryside has to many people – that hasn't gone away. The importance of getting out into nature is still vital for people's wellbeing, so by making the accessible area entirely closed in, it will degrade this positive impact.

3. **Loss of countryside:**

Loss of countryside so close to people's homes is completely wrong. With it being so accessible, there are many people that enjoy the open countryside on a regular basis. In a world where we are losing so much countryside, we should be protecting our Green Belt. Footpaths will begin to feel more like alleyways, given that they're to be restricted to ~5m wide, between a hedgerow and a metal fence – again losing the openness of the countryside.

The priority in terms of Solar Farm installation should be industrial buildings and new build houses should also be built with them as standard fit so that the owner gets the benefit and helps to reduce the need to take away from the countryside. In all honesty, fields upon fields of them are not particularly nice to look at, so this could also help resolve that issue.

4. **Biodiversity:**

I have absolutely no confidence that there will be net biodiversity gain. When I asked, the main point the company's representative continually mentioned was around the 'installation of bird boxes' – unfortunately this does not cut it. There are many other things that can be done to help improve biodiversity, but no other ideas put forward, so I have no belief there is any focus or importance attributed to it.

5. **Protection of wildlife:**

The open fields attract much wildlife – Buzzards, Kestrels and Barn Owls among other raptors are brought to the area because of the availability of food – sadly the Solar Farm being installed will make hunting much more difficult for them due to lack of visibility / ability to fly close to the ground. The open fields are also home to Skylarks, a ground nesting bird with a red conservation status, largely due to loss of habitat. Yellowhammers - another red conservation status bird - are also present in the fields and should not be disturbed by the installation of the Solar Farm. The installation of the Solar Farm (i.e. hedgerow disturbance and use of machinery) could be enough to force them away from the area.

6. **Flooding:**

Flooding is already a problem in the village, where water primarily flows down via the fields the Solar Farm is being proposed on. When rainwater drops off the panels, there is a risk that channels form and will likely form mini streams which could increase flow into the village, thus increasing the risk of flooding.

7. **UK food vs. imports:**

In the current economic climate we live in, there is a lot of concern around the cost of living. Some of the fields that have been proposed to be set aside for the Solar Farm are used for crops – we should be encouraging UK grown food, not taking away the land that provides it.

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YOUR COMMENTS ON THE CASE

As a resident of Fillongley village, but also an advocate for green energy, I feel I have a balanced view on this topic, however my conclusion is I absolutely cannot support the proposal, for the reasons outlined below.

I think I'm right in saying there have been three attempts already to have this proposal approved, and now an appeal - surely this suggests the proposed solar farm should not be going ahead.

- I cannot fathom how losing farmland in a world where food prices and the general cost of living is becoming unmanageable for many people is something even being considered.
- The land holds greenbelt status and so it should absolutely be left alone. This land is therefore protected, how is this even allowed to be considered to be changed?
- There are far better locations for solar panels - we should not be losing greenbelt land when the likes of new build houses, car parks, industrial sites etc are prime locations for installations.
- Once the panels are removed from the "temporary" solar farm (unsure how it can be classed as temporary when it's in for 40 years) - I have absolutely zero faith that the land will be returned to it's original state. What mess are we then left with?
- It was claimed the panels wouldn't need to be cleaned and therefore would mean no chemicals would run off into the soil - but people make a living out of cleaning solar panels, so I do not believe this to be factually correct.
- People's mental wellbeing depends on outdoor space and the natural world - littering it with endless views of metal frames and solar panels will degrade this massively. Speaking from personal experience, I walk these fields regularly and the openness and the beauty in the greenery is what most benefits my mental wellbeing the most, and I know that is the case for many people here. The fact that this could be taken away worries me greatly and will impact on people's wellbeing. The lockdowns during the Covid Pandemic were clear evidence that being able to be outside in nature is vital for our mental health, and I strongly believe any installation like the one proposed will take away from the openness feeling and thus the connection with nature.
- Fillongley is only a small village, how we are expected to take a solar farm of this vastness is beyond me. The footpaths and surrounding fields currently offer unobstructed views, but the installation of these panels and fencing will change the landscape drastically. They are incredibly unsightly, but for many of the residents of Fillongley, will be a daily sight from their homes, local walks and travels through the village.
- We have a wide array of wildlife around the fields in Fillongley - these particular fields are home to nesting Skylarks, which are a red listed bird, meaning we should be protecting them, not building on the land they rely on.
- Flooding is already a big concern in the village - so much so we have a dedicated group of people that help monitor any potential issues. It's been identified the installation of the solar farm could see more water travel from the fields into the main residential part of the village and cause more damage to property than has previously been seen.

COMMENT DOCUMENTS

The documents listed below were uploaded with this form:

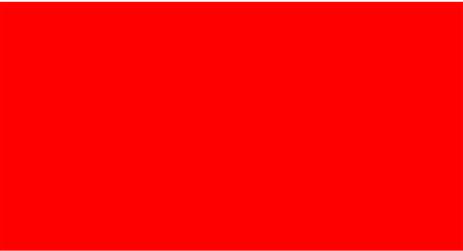
Relates to Section: REPRESENTATION
Document Description: Your comments on the appeal.
File name: SolarFarm.docx

PLEASE ENSURE THAT A COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ENCLOSED WHEN POSTING THE ABOVE DOCUMENTS TO US



Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to object to the planning application of the solar farm said to be in the view of our back garden. I am aged [redacted] so will grow with the impact this holds on my wellbeing and my visual sight. It is confusing that this solar farm is to be placed on a farm working and producing goods rather than one that cannot be farmed on. This farm is only 500m away from our home so if there were to be an electrical fault it could easily start a fire near our homes therefore putting not just our home but our whole village in risk. It feels there has not been any consideration as this farm will overlook my bedroom and garden. Animals and ecosystems will be put in endangerment and including the countryside we live in and see. Furthermore, this solar farm will diminish our community as this disrupts the whole reason of moving to our homes instead of somewhere in a city. The local council have come around to our house as well and said the same concerns. Their thoughts have been shared into the letter too. Keeping natural greenery now will be great for further generations as buildings become more demanded a fresh usable place of nature is amazing for a positive mental health. The use of the word “temporary” is understated as its designed to be placed for more than half a lifetime (45 years).



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YOUR COMMENTS ON THE CASE

Re: Objection to Fillongley Solar Farm: APP/R3705/W/24/3349391

Please find attached a letter supporting our objection to the above planning application. I would be very grateful if you could assess this and also if it would be possible to visit us and see the impact this would have on us as a family. I have also attached statements by children. For context I work in the renewables department for one of the largest Oil and Gas organisations in the world. We are all supported for solar energy and energy security, but it really needs to be in the right place for the right reasons. We should all strive to leave this world a better place for the next generations. This solar farm will be in the landscape until 2070 at least, so way past the timelines of mine and my neighbors lives. We have had awful decisions made by policy makers during covid where the trust in people with authority has been eroded by being led by money rather than making the right decisions for our future generations. We can only improve the lives of our future generations by making the right decisions. The applicant has already attempted to mock residents by stating that this decision is easy to overturn and have also tried to make a bribe for children's play equipment if the council did not object. This is not ethical and hopefully emphasises why we should strive to make the right decisions for the right reasons for our future generations. We would be extremely grateful if it was possible to visit and meet with us before the appeal hearing. Thank you for your time.

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Relates to Section: REPRESENTATION
Document Description: Your comments on the
File name: Fillongley Solar Farm
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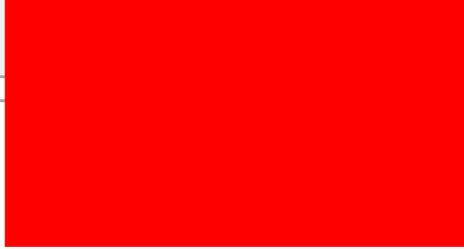
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YOUR COMMENTS ON THE CASE

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to object to the proposed solar farm in Fillongley that has gone to appeal, the site is prime agricultural land and in the troubled times that we live in the land needs to be farmed as intended not a home for a glass factory that is so out of place in the green belt and is so invasive in a village that is mentioned in the doomsday book, car parks and roof tops i feel is the way to go we need our land for farming crops not glass, I fear for the environment and wildlife on the site if the solar farm goes ahead, I also worry of the flood risk and the glare of the panels and the worry of a cyberattack on the panels.



[CPRE Warwickshire] Aerial view of Fillongley Solar Farm location (Appeal APP/R/3705/W/3349391)



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SOLAR FARM APPLICATION, NAILCOTE FARM FILLONGLEY CV7 8DW

19 November 2024

LPA ref: PAP/2023/0071

PINS ref: APP/R3705/W/24/3349391

REPRESENTATIONS by Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) Warwickshire Branch (Office: 41A Smith St, Warwick CV34 4JA)

(additional to grounds of objection to application submitted to North Warwickshire BC)

CPRE Warwickshire objected to this application and wishes to re-emphasise our objection to the Planning Appeal.

CPRE supports the grounds of objection of Fillongley Parish Council. We wish to add the following.

The proposed solar farm, while stated to be below 50MW installed capacity, is large and would cover nearly 40% of the triangle of open farmland landscape between the B4102 Meriden-Fillongley road, the B4098 from Coventry to Fillongley, and the M6 motorway to the south. It would urbanise this part of the Arley Ridge, landscape described as 'Arden Hills and Valleys' in the 2010 North Warwickshire Landscape Assessment. This will be a large loss of landscape, 53 years

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YOUR COMMENTS ON THE CASE

I wish to register my continued objection to this planning application in the strongest possible terms when it is reconsidered upon appeal.

Whilst I acknowledge the climate challenges facing our planet and the need to increase the sustainability of local energy production across the UK, this application for a massive solar farm will overwhelm the area and cause significant harm to our countryside, biodiversity, and agriculture.

I therefore object for the following reasons:

Loss of Farmland: The misappropriation of 150 acres of high-quality, versatile arable land, which has been used for agriculture since at least 1885, is unacceptable. Reducing the UK's valuable food production capacity, especially in light of the ongoing war in Ukraine, exacerbates food insecurity. Energy security should not and must not compromise food security.

Development of Green Belt Land: This proposed development is on designated Green Belt land, contravening numerous policies in the Fillongley Neighbourhood Plan, which was voted on and it was overwhelmingly agreed to preserve this vital, natural and local resource.

Damage to Local Wildlife Habitat: This undeveloped area allows deer and other animals to roam freely. Enclosing such a vast area with fencing and the impact of numerous solar panels will severely disrupt their habitat and negatively affect bird life.

Flooding Risk: The site has a frequent risk of surface water flooding, particularly on the northwest and southeastern boundaries. Additional runoff from the solar panels, hard surfaces, and buildings will exacerbate this issue.

Detriment to Residents' Health: Exposure to low-frequency electromagnetic fields poses potential health risks to people. Additionally, the construction and maintenance of the solar farm will generate noise pollution. The installation process will involve heavy machinery, such as excavators and mechanical pole drivers, which can produce significant levels of noise, disrupting the tranquillity of nearby communities. Aside from the noise pollution, the increased construction traffic will heighten the likelihood and consequences of road traffic accidents in the vicinity.

Solar panels can also pose a significant fire hazard. A malfunctioning panel can overheat and ignite, spreading fire quickly across the solar array. Moreover, the chemicals used in solar panels, such as polyvinyl chloride (PVC), can release harmful dioxins when burned, which can harm human health either via inhalation or pollution of local water sources, further increasing the health risks associated with solar panel fires.

The introduction of a solar farm into a previously pristine landscape can also have psychological and societal impacts on the communities living nearby. The change in scenery and the presence of large, industrial structures can lead to a decreased sense of overall well-being among residents. The proposals for solar panels, as well as battery storage and switchgear buildings, present a serious risk to the local population's health.

Questionable Contribution to Reducing Carbon Emissions: It takes approximately 200 acres to generate the same annual electricity through a solar farm as just one offshore wind turbine. This proposal represents a grossly inefficient use of precious land. Solar farms generate 'ragged' electricity due to the random incidence of clouds or overcast skies, which restrict electricity generation from the panels. Additionally, the panels only work during daylight, whereas demand for electricity is continuous for 24 hours. Hence, there is a necessity for expensive short-term battery storage to concentrate the electricity before it can be inputted to the grids. With hardly any electricity generated during the winter months, the average energy produced by a solar farm is only 11% of the installed capacity of the panels, making this means of energy generation highly inefficient. Solar farms produce their maximum

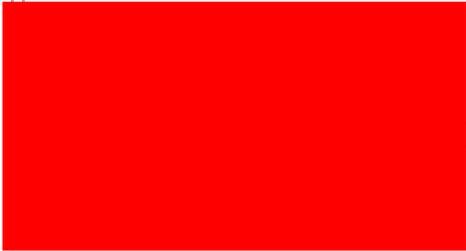
electricity in the summer when demand for electricity is at its lowest, leading to high energy wastage because unused electricity cannot be indefinitely stored.

I believe this solar farm will only be connected to the local low voltage distribution system, resulting in zero network connectivity with the National Grid and a minimal to negligible contribution to reducing the UK's carbon output.

It should be emphasised that being "renewable" does not mean "zero" carbon. While the generation of electricity by solar power is carbon-free, the manufacturing and installation of such farms can release significant amounts of CO₂. This can be measured by the Embodied Carbon Footprint (ECF). Currently, this is about 50 grams of CO₂ per kWh for solar, equating to approximately 96,000 metric tonnes of CO₂ over the expected lifetime of this installation.

In conclusion, there is no justifiable reason for constructing solar farms on fertile farmland because food security must remain paramount. Solar farm energy is highly inefficient and has the potential to be detrimental to residents' physical and mental health. While I recognise that solar panels should be encouraged for millions of existing and future buildings roofs, I object to agricultural land being used for such an inefficient means of energy production. Industrial and brownfield sites should be fully exploited in the first instance.

This ill-conceived and unnecessary development is wholly unacceptable. I respectfully urge NWBC to continue to refuse planning permission and reject the developer's appeal.





National Highways Planning Response (NHPR 22-12) Formal Recommendation to an Application for Planning Permission

From: Andrew Jinks (Regional Director)
Operations Directorate
Midlands Region
National Highways
PlanningM@nationalhighways.co.uk

To: North Warwickshire Council – FAO – Jeff Brown

CC: transportplanning@dft.gov.uk
spatialplanning@nationalhighways.co.uk

Council's Reference: PAP/2023/0071

Location: Land 800 Metres South of Park House Farm, Meriden Road, Fillongley

Proposal: Proposed Solar Farm

National Highways Ref: NH/23/00582

Referring to the consultation on a planning application dated 20 March 2023 referenced above, in the vicinity of the M6 that forms part of the Strategic Road Network (SRN), notice is hereby given that National Highways' formal recommendation is that we:

- a) offer no objection (see reasons at Annex A);
- ~~b) recommend that conditions should be attached to any planning permission that may be granted (see Annex A – National Highways recommended Planning Conditions & reasons);~~
- ~~c) recommend that planning permission not be granted for a specified period (see reasons at Annex A);~~
- ~~d) recommend that the application be refused (see reasons at Annex A)~~

Highways Act 1980 Section 175B is not relevant to this application.¹

¹ Where relevant, further information will be provided within Annex A.

This represents National Highways' formal recommendation and is copied to the Department for Transport as per the terms of our Licence.

Should the Local Planning Authority not propose to determine the application in accordance with this recommendation they are required to consult the Secretary of State for Transport, as set out in the [Town and Country Planning \(Development Affecting Trunk Roads\) Direction 2018](#), via transportplanning@dft.gov.uk and may not determine the application until the consultation process is complete.

The Local Planning Authority must also copy any consultation under the 2018 Direction to PlanningM@nationalhighways.co.uk.

Signature	
Name: Adrian Chadha	Position: Assistant Spatial Planner
National Highways The Cube, 199 Wharfside Street, Birmingham, B1 1RN Adrian.Chadha@nationalhighways.co.uk	

Annex A National Highways' assessment of the proposed development

National Highways has been appointed by the Secretary of State for Transport as a strategic highway company under the provisions of the Infrastructure Act 2015 and is the highway authority, traffic authority and street authority for the Strategic Road Network (SRN). The SRN is a critical national asset and as such we work to ensure that it operates and is managed in the public interest, both in respect of current activities and needs as well as in providing effective stewardship of its long-term operation and integrity.

August 2023 Update

Further to our previous responses, National Highways have reviewed the revised Glint and Glare Assessment and Landscape Strategy plan provided by the applicant and are now content that this application can be dealt with by way of a 'No Objection' response.

Standing advice to the local planning authority

The Climate Change Committee's [2022 Report to Parliament](#) notes that for the UK to achieve net zero carbon status by 2050, action is needed to support a modal shift away from car travel. The NPPF supports this position, with paragraphs 73 and 105 prescribing that significant development should offer a genuine choice of transport modes, while paragraphs 104 and 110 advise that appropriate opportunities to promote walking, cycling and public transport should be taken up.

Moreover, the build clever and build efficiently criteria as set out in clause 6.1.4 of [PAS2080](#) promote the use of low carbon materials and products, innovative design solutions and construction methods to minimise resource consumption.

These considerations should be weighed alongside any relevant Local Plan policies to ensure that planning decisions are in line with the necessary transition to net zero carbon.

The Planning Inspectorate

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Appeal Reference: APP/R3705/W/24/3349391

DETAILS OF THE CASE

Appeal Reference

APP/R3705/W/24/3349391

Appeal By

ENVIROMENA PROJECT MANAGEMENT UK LTD

Site Address

Land 800 Metres South Of Park House Farm
Meriden Road
Fillongley
Warwickshire
CV7 8BP
Grid Ref Easting: 427624
Grid Ref Northing: 286021

SENDER DETAILS

Name

Address



ABOUT YOUR COMMENTS

In what capacity do you wish to make representations on this case?

- Appellant
- Agent
- Interested Party / Person
- Land Owner
- Rule 6 (6)

What kind of representation are you making?

- Final Comments
- Proof of Evidence
- Statement
- Statement of Common Ground
- Interested Party/Person Correspondence

Other

YOUR COMMENTS ON THE CASE

I would like to support the approval of this application, I am a local resident and do not believe the impact is unacceptable. If we want to move to a sustainable future we have to support developments like this one. Solar farms can help deliver green energy which in the current climate is needed. It is easier for everyone to object when it happens in our 'back garden' but these renewable solutions have to go somewhere and I believe this location is appropriate.





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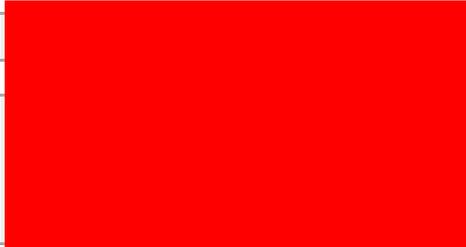
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Other

YOUR COMMENTS ON THE CASE

I believe that the application should be rejected. The land at the moment is undulating open landscape. No amount of screening will prevent this changing to an industrial landscape which is completely inappropriate in the Green Belt - especially in this highly visible location. The footpath which crosses the site and I regularly use will turn into a tunnel as we are fenced in by the fencing and high panels. There is little mention made of the applicants wish to keep the associated structures of storage, masts etc after the 40 years (which indicates it intends reapply and it will never be returned to green belt). These structures also appear to be coincidentally missing from the applicants visual images. I have a photograph taken this morning - very picturesque but also shows starkly where the solar panels will blight the landscape

COMMENT DOCUMENTS

The documents listed below were uploaded with this form:

Relates to Section: REPRESENTATION
Document Description: Your comments on the appeal.
File name: Far Parks view today.jpeg
File name: far parks view today without solar marked.jpeg

PLEASE ENSURE THAT A COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ENCLOSED WHEN POSTING THE ABOVE DOCUMENTS TO US

DOCUMENT SURVEY (HERITAGE) WITH SUMMARY -NOV 2024

Planning Appeal APP/R3705/W/24/3349391

**Land 800 metres south Park Farm House, FILLONGLEY CV7 8PB -SOLAR
(Refusal by North Warwickshire Borough Council of planning
permission.)**

Note. Focus is on evidence/ documents relating to location and setting of significant heritage (geological and historical). Documents include heritage context, heritage assets and non-designated assets. * *Omissions of key documents and **data sources** in original application are highlighted.*

Member NWHF -North Warwickshire Heritage Forum. (Public-professional)

NOTE

The purpose of this submission is to highlight the omissions and lack of consideration by the applicant with regard to the following records. It supports other heritage and landscape submissions.

1 Location descriptors. The site is situated on NORTH WARWICKSHIRE RIDGE within The Green Belt **and on almost the highest point of the ridge.** Height approx. 145m-150m, max, **in comparison with Fillongley village height 110-115m.** Therefore this is a highly visible site demonstrating the openness of Green Belt. It is visible from Fillongley Conservation Area (eg from Castle Farm, where a series of ridges is visible, including Norman Castle c12th Motte & Bailey site, and with the solar site being highly visible being the large ridge beyond. Additionally, as the land slopes to east and west at either end of the further raised area -it is indeed very prominent.

Data sets in Contour Mapping, at Warwickshire County Council, Landscape Character Assessment clearly demonstrate height, and steep incline. A different, and more appropriate location, could have been chosen with use of this and other tools in the applicant's site selection

process. Significantly too, demonstrated in this mapping, is the undulating surface of the solar park means arrays/panels incline in different directions thus increasing 'glint and glare', and over a wider area. The lowest parts of the site are 122m -at least 85 ft differentiation so not a flat site.

The resulting construction is an industrial landscape impact.

The ridge is a key watershed, with 2 water courses including Bourne Brook flowing into the moat of Castle Yard and eventually flowing north to the Humber Estuary. A watercourse, on the south side flows towards Meriden /Bristol Channel. Geology/hydrology no doubt informed the location for the castle.

Environment Agency mapping show the key areas of springs especially an area in the identified 'parklands' with tributaries flowing into the moat and fish ponds of the Castle Yard. A functioning heritage landscape is on display.

Key sources

The British Geological Survey

Ordnance Survey Maps, 1st edition.

1846 Tithe map with field patterns

John Cary's map of England 1794 -still recording Old Fillongley and chapel

2 Warwickshire Historic Landscape Characterisation HLC project and North Warwickshire ARDEN landscape type.

'Shakespeare's Arden' /Forest of Arden landscape is infact the North Warwickshire countryside-NB Prof Carl Chinn.

This is very important setting between listed and non designated heritage.

Artistic value and interest.

3 Setting specifics-historic routes

The site has two historic footpaths -one to the edge of the site and the most **significant route serving Fillongley and OLDFILYNGLEY (stet) ie CHAPEL GREEN area.** See also OS 2024 Old Fillongley-hall still recorded. Very early

mapping and documents circa 1400s, looking back to 900 give spellings as Filongley, Filungley, Filyngley, Fylongley, describe the environment-ref below. (See English Heritage stone experts identifying Benedictine monastery stone from Coventry. Visible adjacent to the south of the solar site).

Communities, historians and those working the landscape can appreciate numerous recorded 'events' at this location, WCC HER Historic Environment Record. However, the most recent significant documents are held at **The National Archives have recently been transcribed, translated and edited with name indexes etc forming new documents giving significant access, by being commercially published by a learned society. Therefore, publishing regionally and nationally significant documents.**

The Coventry Priory Register, (OLDFILYNGLEY and Fillongley) -E164/21 National Archives. Given it's importance for history of both Coventry and rural Warwickshire, including the Fillongley 'chapel' a precious survivor of the Benedictine Monastery. This transcript was published in 2013. No digital copy is available but listed via catalogues in main Record Offices etc Coventry Priory Reglster, edited by Dr Peter Coss Professor Medieval History and Dr J Lancaster Lewis former Coventry City archivist -ISBN 978-0-85220-096-X

Compiled by unknown monk 1419 recording and surveying property with Coventry and Warwickshire, and including early charters, rentals, licences in mortmain and events around 1334-7 it provides a new context for these lands.

SITE VISIT This might be informed by visiting the heritage trail, from Fillongley -Conservation area, via the Castle Yard to Old Fillongley/Chapel Green.

OTHER RESEARCH

Environmental impacts of this site include FOOD SECURITY and adding to INTERNATIONAL/UK SHIPPING EMISSIONS -40% of UK grain is imported from Canada and is increasing with Ukraine war. The loss of 94% of high grade agricultural land BMV Best Most Versatile land, Grade 2 24% and 3a 71%. Prof R Ziarati has submitted calculations for this impact to this planning application. (West Midlands Air Quality People's Chamber).

The Planning Inspectorate

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What kind of representation are you making?

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Other

YOUR COMMENTS ON THE CASE

Dear Sirs,

I am writing to share and record my concerns regarding the Case APP/R3705?W/24/3349391.

I am a resident of the local area and have had access to the information shared online and by Fillongley Parish Council regarding the solar farm.

The proposed solar farm development will swamp the small village area and utilise farm land and pasture which is required for the food security of our nation. If this land is used for the proposed purpose, can it really be restored back to farm pasture in the future? The Green Belt land, and covenants regarding its use, must be protected for future generations.

The natural landscape is also important for native wildlife, with the green areas also being important for the absorption of CO2.

Routes into and out of the village will also be disrupted during the installation of the proposed solar farm, with any increase in traffic resulting in increased CO2 emissions and pollution. The transportation of the solar panels and installations equipment, I believe from abroad, will also carry a carbon footprint. In terms of travel by road, the development impacts the two main routes into and out of the village. These routes will pose a danger of possible reflection blindness from the proposed solar farm, with the potential of endangering road users.

The village of Fillongley is also liable to flooding, another consequence of our changing climate. Loosing or changing the green land with the ability to absorb excess rain water is only going to increase the risk of flooding in this area. The initial proposed drainage system has been withdrawn by the developer during the appeal process, showing a disregard to the local population and infrastructure.

I understand and support the need for alternative and green energy sources for the protection of the planet and future generations. However, destruction of the Green Belt is in stark conflict to the proposed green energy benefits of the solar farm.

More appropriate sites (e.g. Brown field sites) must be considered in developments such as this, alongside how the power generated will actually be linked to the main grid.

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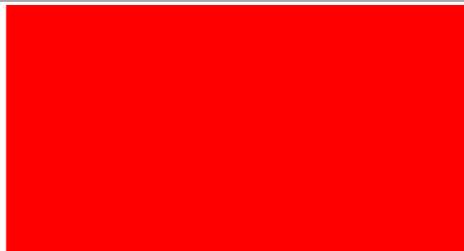
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Other

YOUR COMMENTS ON THE CASE

This is a totally unsuitable site for this scheme. Firstly, there is a desperate shortage of agricultural land in this area which has served to drive up land prices and rents to an unaffordable level. The applicants have offered a rent for this ground which far exceeds that which could be earned through agriculture, enabling the landowner to either rent or purchase further land from a position of being able to outbid bone fide farmers. This landowner (who I know well) has already made tens of millions of pounds by selling land for building, enabling them to buy land unaffordable to most. Secondly such industrial structures as solar farms have no place in the green belt in such a visible area. This area is part of the Ancient Forest of Arden conservation area, and with so much land in neighbouring Coventry removed from the green belt for housebuilding in their 2016 local plan the green belt within North Warwickshire must be protected. Solar panels would be far better sited on existing structures, covering car parks and other such locations. If the authority were to adopt a policy of insisting that all new build houses must include a south facing roof section to accommodate solar panels that would be a far more effective way of providing power where it is needed. Finally, I have to flag the futility of generating energy from Solar. Having installed a solar system for my own business I know only too well of the volatility of solar generation, and the speed at which output can rise and fall with cloud movement. The last few weeks of cloudy skies have reduced my output to around 5% of expected, and today with a coating of snow nothing was produced. This fluctuation increases the dependence on gas turbines to fill the gap, and keeping these on standby contributes significantly to energy bills. Similarly the cost of disposal of energy during intense sunshine is also passed on to the consumer. Until a suitable storage technology becomes available and is deployed there is no place for solar farms in the UK.

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Company/Group/Organisation

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- Interested Party/Person Correspondence
- Other

YOUR COMMENTS ON THE CASE

The proposed site is within Fillongley Parish but there are strong feelings regarding this appeal from other local communities. On this basis Corley Parish Council (CPC) wish to submit the following statement in reference to the appeal and for the avoidance of doubt all our Parish Councillors were unanimous in voting to submit this response.

CPC in line with Fillongley Parish Council (FPC) and North Warwickshire Borough Council (NWBC) recognise the need for renewable energy but also fully aware of the need for our country's food security. Siting Solar Farms in appropriate locations is clearly the way forward and our view is that the proposed site is totally unsuitable.

CPC, have requested that NWBC stand by the Greenbelt Policy and thus protect our Green Belt and thus request this appeal is dismissed.

Our countryside is under threat and the proliferation of many applications for solar farms is exacerbating the situation. We are in rural area surrounded by open farmland. We are led to believe that the surrounding land is protected by Green Belt legislation. The size and scale of the proposal is completely inappropriate development. The solar farm would overwhelm the area. The solar farm will completely dominate the landscape and due to the topography of the land will be visible to many, many properties.

Climate change around the world will inevitably lead to issues with food produces who we currently rely on. Conflict in Europe has put tremendous pressure on the price and demand for fossil fuels – a consequence which in itself drives the need for sustainable and renewable energy sources. This, however does not mean we should use our valuable and fertile land for huge solar farms when there are clearly other much more effective and nonintrusive ways the same goal can be achieved.

All across the UK we have massive industrial units and warehouse facilities which could be an ideal location for solar panels on their massive roofs. Such an initiative would massively help our drive to Net Zero whilst leaving our fertile land for precious food production. Why not incentivise the developers/owners of these units to install such facilities rather than make it more profitable for a farmer to give up land to solar panels rather than food production – this makes absolutely no sense!! The soil grade standard of the proposed site has been questioned. We are advised that the land is graded as 2a, 2b and 3. It is the same soil that is predominant in the whole of the Borough and the same soil that has been farmed and produced food for generations. It is known to have been a good wheat field, a good potato field and also has cropped onions successfully. The loss of this land for agricultural use is totally unacceptable.

It is noted that the appeal states that, if approved, the solar panels will be removed after 40 years and the land restored to agricultural use. Please pardon our scepticism but wish to comment that this commitment is meaningless.

There are no new hedges proposed and only some screening trees that will be so small they would not be likely to support the birdlife that is frightened away during the construction process and will not grow fast enough to provide any effective screening.

CPC also understands that the Fillongley Flood Group (we understand this is independent of FPC) also have major concerns that is the appeal is successful this will directly impact flooding in the Fillongley area – a village already prone to flooding issues.

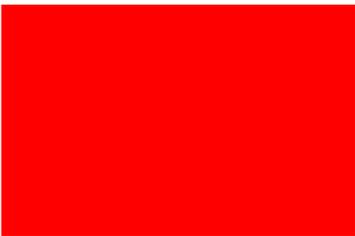
The appellants states that it will be possible for sheep to graze in the area all around the panels. The practicality of this has to be questioned especially as we have seen reports from other sites where the sheep have eaten through the cabling and caused significant damage to the infrastructure.

There are clearly issues relating to glint and glare. This is the result of the effects of light reflecting on the panels. Either the panels will face the motorway providing distraction to the drivers, or they will face resident's houses providing an inherent nuisance. Any direction will cause problems, specifically for nocturnal birds being confused by glint from the lights of traffic on the motorway reflecting off the

panels.

House developers always prefer Green Belt land over using Brownfield sites – now we have Solar Farm developers adopting the same strategy – both because it's cheaper and easier. The consequences of both are destroying our Green Belt for short term gain with no regard for the long term impact.

The Parish Council therefore request that this appeal is refused and the land is left for its prime agricultural use.



Reference Number : APP/R3705/W/24/3349391

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am contacting you as I would like to object to the planning application of the Fillongley Solar Farm. I would like you to consider the impact this will have on me personally. We moved into our home just over 3 years ago and this really is our dream house and I will explain why. I am the eldest of 4 siblings, we lost our dad in 1992 when I was 19 and in order to help my mum pay the mortgage as we were at risk of losing our home, I gave up my education, I really wanted to be a fashion designer. But we risked losing our home. My younger siblings were 11 and 12 at the time. My mum spoke little English and we both worked as a team to secure our home and pay the bills, making sure my siblings were secure, making sure they the opportunities I didn't in education and settling down with their partners. I spent my whole life in Coventry working in various jobs holding 2 jobs sometimes and after paying bills I would only have 1 penny in my bank account. I wanted to give up so many times but I could not do so, as my mum needed me. I am now a mother of 2 and I work for Acorns Children's Hospice as a Community Shop Manager. I suffered from mental health issues and when we were looking for a new home we were very fortunate to find our house with the lovely scenic views, it is my dream come true. My mum is in her late 70's and will come and just sit in the garden, she feels so proud of what we have done and she is so happy for me that after all our struggles we have something beautiful. This application really hurts my feelings as I have worked so hard and with so much honesty all my life, I have seen so many dishonest people make so much money, so many people lying and falsifying information purely for financial reasons.

Why do we work so hard if no-one ever listens or notices our point of view.

The application was rejected as it meets zero planning conditions. But the applicants think they can over rule this will financial and political influence. Would I be able to build a 3 storey extension at the back of my house if I could not

meet the planning guidelines?

The applications states that this farm is not on scenic land, this is absolutely a lie. The original plan did not even include our homes and the views. When my husband advised the planning officer (Jeff Brown) he drew our houses on himself. This is something the applicant should have done, they should have also taken photos and really assessed our position.

The application states that any visual impact will be covered with screening that will take 15 years to grow. I was diagnosed in March 2019 with a tumour in my spine. I have a MRIS scan every 12 months to monitor this. At the moment it is stable but these timelines are my whole life. If you see the proposed site from house, as we are elevated, no amount of screening will ever cover the farm. Our viewpoint has NOT been considered or referenced in any of the application. This is intentionally misleading. There was a Solar Farm in Nottingham where the appeal was rejected on the visual impact to the countryside and that application was next to an industrial park. If you see this site, it is on land that is currently used for food and it is a truly beautiful visual location. Any photos do not do it any justice.

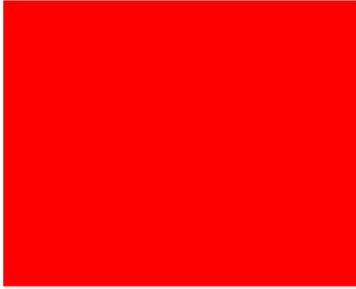
Could I please request that you visit our home and really see the impact. I promise we will not speak negatively or positively about the application, but if you just come and look, else I do not think the application will have been truly assessed for its impact.

Kind regards



REF:- APP/R3705/W/24/3349391.

Rec'd 11/12/24



Inspectorate Ref: PUR/3179616 - Fillongley proposed solar farm appeal

Dear Sir/Madam

We wish to submit our objections to the proposed Solar Farm in Fillongley.

Firstly we wish to state that the whole process is proving very stressful and affecting our mental health due to the lack of consultation and understanding of our needs as Fillongley residents. The proposed location is within full view of our property at 5 Far Parks CV7 8HS which contravenes the regulatory 1000 meter maximum distance from any residential buildings.

Other key points that we feel are relevant are:-

1. Loss of green belt farmland
2. Loss of wildlife habitat
3. Risk of fire and its associated fumes
4. Potential devaluation of property
5. Destruction of area of natural beauty
6. Regulations state that the Solar Farm should be on flat land not undulating hills which is what it is and should be south facing which the proposed site is not
7. The five houses on Far Parks are not shown on numerous maps of the proposed site included in the planning application

Summary

- Use of Grade 2 and 3a land
- 2 Solar farms with 4km
- No exceptional circumstances to introduce a 3rd and use more green belt – The only explanation to mitigate this is the use of the word temporary,
- Against local authority plan to reject industrialisation of green belt
- Visual effects plan based on 15-year timescale – impacting residents
- Planned screening by planting vegetation in “gaps” on motorway will not be sufficient as the vegetation has seasonal growth. Glare in winter/Autumn will be highly dangerous, due to the local angle of the sun and the proximity and scale of the farm.
- Visual effect plans ineffective for residents east and north of site
- No timescales to return site to green belt after 40 years
- No benefit to local residents – ie. reduction in local energy costs
- No assessment on residents’ mental health
- Village demographic not considered, temporary timescales, would be permanent for the majority of the residents. The 15-year visual effect plan would also not benefit a large number of residents.
- Developer acknowledges site is best quality land, but assumes this will be accepted
- Solar farm over farming
- Flood assessment and plans inadequate
- Site has large areas that are North easterly facing. This is not ideal for solar farms; they should be south facing. This area is also where the land is classed as grade 2.
- Review against North Warwickshire Local Plan
- LP3 Green belt – planning will not be approved unless under “Very Special Circumstances”. Already have approved 2 sites, so this is now no longer a very special circumstance.
- Lp14 – This proposal will not look to conserve, enhance, or promote the landscape
- LP29 – This will impact my children. This would be the 3rd solar farm. They will not be able to enjoy the landscape, for the next 15 years due to the visual remediation work. The site will be static for 25 years before the site is then demolished. With timescale unknown
- LP35 – There has been no consideration to the viewpoint from our homes. Is this principle really adhered to, or should there be

further consultation?

Further details on summary above

If we follow government and planning guidelines then this particular proposal should be rejected purely on the basis of the site and the agricultural qualities of the land. Please see visual here from this guide. ; [KN5524_Planning_Guidance_reduced.pdf \(bregroup.com\)](#)

There is no justification in the provided proposal as to why grade 2 and grade 3a land is being proposed. This is particularly disturbing as the proposal mentions 2 other proposals with 4 km also built on green-built. No clear exceptional justification is provided.

To re-iterate; the site itself is on grade 2 and grade 3a land. The land is not flat, only certain elements are south facing. It is largely easterly facing. The guidance states these should only be approved in EXCEPTIONAL circumstances.

The land is largely class 2 and 3a. The land in question has been used to farm for over 200 years. There is some very useful information contained here outlining the practices used by organisations submitting proposals for Solar Farms.

<https://committees.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/113955/pdf/>

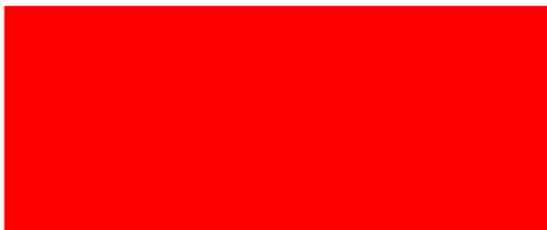
To support the point raised regarding the need to avoid using the best agricultural land, please see an extract from another report that can be found here: <https://www.cpreherts.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/30/2021/10/The-Problem-with-Solar-Farms.pdf>

This is a fair reflection of the feelings of all the  although they will be submitting their own individual objections.

Please see attached photos showing before and after proposed solar farm installation. This shows the huge impact it would have on the farmland and views.

Kind regards

Gary & Kate Hickman



PROPOSED SOLAR FARM HIGHLIGHTED
IN BLACK



117

VIEW BEFORE PROPOSED SOLAR
FARM!



Rec'd 13/11/24

Reference number : APP/R3705/W/24/3349391

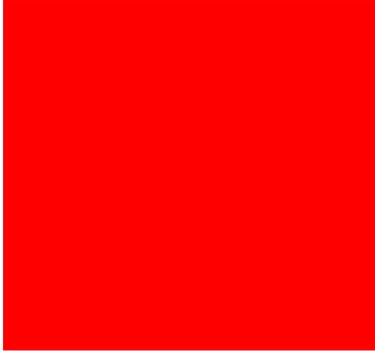
Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to object to the planning application of the solar farm said to be in the view of our back garden. I am aged 12 so will grow with the impact this holds on my wellbeing and my visual sight. It is confusing that this solar farm is to be placed on a farm working and producing goods rather than one that cannot be farmed on. This farm is only 500m away from our home so if there were to be an electrical fault it could easily start a fire near our homes therefore putting not just our home but our whole village in risk. It feels there has not been any consideration as this farm will overlook my bedroom and garden. Animals and ecosystems will be put in endangerment and including the countryside we live in and see. Furthermore, this solar farm will diminish our community as this disrupts the whole reason of moving to our homes instead of somewhere in a city. The local council have come around to our house as well and said the same concerns. Their thoughts have been shared into the letter too. Keeping natural greenery now will be great for further generations as buildings become more demanded a fresh usable place of nature is amazing for a positive mental health. The use of the word "temporary" is understated as its designed to be placed for more than half a lifetime (45 years).

Please see the photos for how this will effect me, this is beautiful countryside that every in the application is ignoring and saying this is not "scenic quality". The planning office did not include our views and in the application. This will really make me sad if we lose this countryside. All the fields in brown and the green ones next to these are where the solar panels will be. Please can you come and see for yourself from our home how much of a negative impact this will be.







Re: Objection to Fillongley Solar Farm: APP/R3705/W/24/3349391

I am writing to formally object to the above-referenced planning application for the installation of a solar farm on Grade II listed agricultural land, in close proximity to residential homes. Fillongley is a historical agricultural village, the land has been farmed for centuries. If this application was approved there would be 3 solar farms in this area, which is excessive. The application also does not meet ANY criteria for the local authorities own planning guidelines, how can such an application be approved? What precedence does this set for future applications? It does not meet the location guidelines, does not address the flood risk, does not comply with planning guidelines for size of the application neither does it meet the Parish and local councils development plan.

There is no benefit to the local community. There is no consideration to the mental health of residents, who would have moved to the countryside in some instances to improve their mental health through the visibility of greenspace. The paper states there is a Solar farm to the North and another to the East, the south is locked in my the M6, this development then encases the residents and severely impacts the quality of life.

<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/explore-mental-health/publications/thriving-nature>

The proposal mentions there are already 2 sites within a 4km radius approved to be developed on Green Belt. Although there are national targets and ambitions to achieve net zero by 2050. The Government guideline state that this should not be used as sole measure to approve applications. This site if built post deliverance, would only be in place for 14 years post 2050, if we include all the screening development timelines. Loss of greenfield. Loss of the best quality agricultural land, impact to Motorists, the residents. Already 2 solar farms within 4km. There is no exceptional justification why a development this size should be approved at this site. The submission details that any impact created during construction and plans to remediate the visual effect will take approximately 15 years before they start to take effect. For a temporary installation this is quite significant timescales. The

timescales (cost allocations) to decommission the site have also not been stated. There should be lessons learnt from Daw Mill Colliery, which has still not been returned to Green field as originally planned.

The developers have noted the land is class 2, this largely forms areas on the outer edges of the proposal, they have made no attempt to re-size the proposal to reflect or take this into consideration. It seems that they are aware that they have the influence within the wider planning process to push plans through, at least this is what the representative at the local parish meetings alluded too.

There was also an attempt at bribery, the applicants stated they would fund play equipment at the local park, if the application was not objected to by the parish council.

Historical and Cultural Impact:

The proposed site includes farm land that has been classified as Grade II listed, a designation that indicates its quality to support food growth.

Developing a solar farm on this land would compromise its integrity and diminish its heritage value, which should be preserved for future generations. The unrest in Ukraine highlighted the UK's dependence on overseas resources such as wheat.

Why are we then using grade 2 land? This land is used for the produce of food products and these are working fields, this is not derelict land.

Grade 2 agricultural land is divided into two subgrades: **Grade 2a** and **Grade 2b1**. Here's a brief overview of each:

- **Grade 2a:** This is considered **very good quality agricultural land**¹. It has minor limitations that only slightly affect crop yield, cultivations, or harvesting². A wide range of agricultural and horticultural crops can usually be grown on this land².

- **Grade 2b:** This is also **very good quality agricultural land**,

While a wide range of crops can still be grown, the land may not be as versatile as Grade 2a².

Both grades are **highly valuable for agriculture**, but Grade 2a is generally more favourable due to its fewer limitations.

Government policy on growing produce on agricultural grade 2 land.

The UK government has several policies in place to protect agricultural land, especially the best and most versatile (BMV) land, which includes Grade 2 land¹. Here are some key points:

1.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF): This framework guides local planning authorities (LPAs) to protect BMV agricultural land from inappropriate development¹. It emphasizes using poorer quality land for development instead of higher quality land¹.

2.

A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment: This plan aims to protect the best agricultural land and manage soils sustainably by 2030¹. It values soils as part of the UK's natural capital¹.

3.

Consultation with Natural England: For large-scale non-agricultural developments that result in the loss of more than 20 hectares of BMV land, local planning authorities must consult Natural England¹. Natural England advises on the impact of such proposals on BMV agricultural land¹.

4.

Sustainable Use of Soils: The Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) has published a Code of Practice for the sustainable use of soils on construction sites, which includes advice on protecting soil during development².

These policies aim to ensure that agricultural land, especially high-quality land like Grade 2, is preserved for food production and other high-value crops³.

8

Planning guidance for the development of large-scale ground-mounted solar PV systems

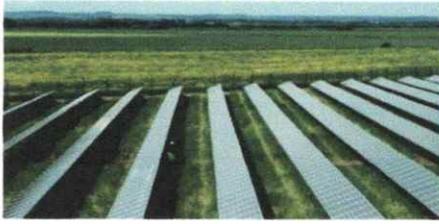


Figure 6 Adequate spacing between rows of panels is necessary to avoid wind turbines. Wind turbines will cross between these rows and the



Figure 7 Kobern-Gondorf facility solar facility, in Germany, is used as a nature reserve for an important species of flora and fauna

If we follow government and planning guidelines then this particular proposal, should be rejected purely on the basis of the site and the agricultural qualities of the land. Please see visual here from this guide. ;

[KN5524 Planning Guidance reduced.pdf \(bregroup.com\)](#)

There is no justification in the provided proposal as to why grade 2 and grade 3a land is being proposed. This is particularly disturbing as the proposal mentions 2 other proposals with 4 km also built on green-built. No clear exceptional justification is provided.

To re-iterate the site itself is on grade 2 and grade 3a land. The land is not flat, only certain elements are south facing. It is largely easterly facing. The guidance states these should only be approved in EXCEPTIONAL circumstances.

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<https://www.cpreherts.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/30/2021/10/The-Problem-with-Solar-Farms.pdf>

Residential Proximity and Visual Impact:

The planned solar farm is situated alarmingly close to residential homes. This proximity raises significant concerns about the visual impact on the local community, as the installation would alter the rural landscape and detract from the aesthetic appeal of the area. The presence of a solar farm can also affect the property values and the quality of life of the residents. Please may we request that you visit our home before the appeal date and understand the impact from our perspective. The size of this farm his larger than the village centre and its location is central to the whole village.

There is also no consideration to proximity to homes – please see the extract from

[Renewable and low carbon energy - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

“The approach to assessing cumulative landscape and visual impact of large scale solar farms is likely to be the same as assessing the [impact of wind turbines](#). “

Please see the guidance on the distance of a development from residential dwellings taken from;

[Wind Turbines \(Minimum Distances from Residential Premises\) Bill \[HL\]_\(parliament.uk\)](#)

“If the height of the wind turbine generator is—

- (a) greater than 25m, but does not exceed 50m, the minimum distance

requirement is 1000m;

- (b) greater than 50m, but does not exceed 100m, the minimum distance

requirement is 1500m;”

In addition to this the site runs along a very busy section of the M6 motorway.

The recommended distance between a solar farm and a motorway can vary based on local regulations and guidelines. Generally, a buffer zone of **500 meters (0.3 miles)** to **1 kilometer (0.62 miles)** is suggested to minimize any potential visual impact, noise, and safety concerns for both drivers and nearby residents.

Environmental Concerns

While the pursuit of renewable energy is commendable, the environmental impact of large-scale solar farms should be carefully considered. The development could potentially disrupt local ecosystems, including wildlife habitats that are an integral part of the countryside.

We have mentioned before the land below the farm is a tributary to the local water plant, there are multiple natural springs in the area.

Solar panels themselves do not directly pollute water tables¹. However, there are some potential indirect risks associated with their installation and maintenance:

During the construction and maintenance of solar farms, there can be runoff of sediments and chemicals that might contaminate local water sources if not properly managed².

Fire risk;

Solar farms without batteries can still pose a fire risk, although the risk is generally low, this risk should have a plan. Here are some key points to consider:

1. **Electrical Faults:** The most common cause of fires in solar farms is electrical faults, which can occur in the inverters or wiring²³. These faults can generate sparks and potentially ignite nearby materials²³.
2. **Overheating:** Solar panels and associated equipment can overheat, especially if there is poor ventilation or if the system is not properly maintained²¹. Overheating can lead to thermal runaway, where the temperature continues to rise uncontrollably, potentially causing a fire.
3. **External Factors:** Environmental factors such as lightning strikes, strong winds, or falling debris can damage solar panels or electrical components, leading to a fire risk²¹.
4. **Lack of Fire Suppression Systems:** Without proper fire suppression systems, a fire can spread quickly and cause significant damage³. This can impact not only the solar farm but also the surrounding environment and nearby properties.

To mitigate these risks, it's important to ensure proper installation, regular maintenance, and the use of high-quality components¹. Additionally, having fire suppression systems in place can help manage and reduce the impact of any potential fires.

have forwarded a chain discussing the mitigation requirements in the event of a fire. It would be good to understand the considerations listed by the applicants for Fillongley solar farm.

We are approximately 500 metres from the edge of this site. A fire from the farm could reach us in a matter of seconds not minutes. We have young children and elderly residents in close proximity. What steps have the planning authority advised need to be in place to protect the residents? Suitable clearing from the edge of the farm? Sprinklers? The health and safety of the residents should be a number 1 priority, particularly if solar farm applicants have a desire for green energy they should also have consideration of the wider green impacts, the inhabitants safety should be considered .

Fire risk – although this is low, the impact would be very high. We still need a plan to mitigate any fire risks, simply saying the risk is low is not acceptable. We should have a risk mitigation action plan in place. Recent climate change has brought in significantly extreme and warmer weather, bush fires were a record high.

In terms of the application. What we do have a is a series of invertors in the application.

There is a risk of fires with inverters. We just want assurance that if there was a fire there would be a mitigation plan in place.

In addition to this the site is located South Westerly location from our homes. So in the event of a fire, even if the risk is low, there still should be some mitigation. If there was a fire, you cannot turn the solar panels off, they still would be operating. So a low risk could still result in a high impact event.

Just a quick check online for fire risk for invertors.

<https://www.firetrace.com/fire-protection-blog/what-causes-solar-inverters-to-catch-fire>

The wind will predominantly come from this direction.

Slightly linked but different question, does the plan consider a change to wind speed as a result of the farm being within this proximity of our homes. The winds recently example did reach gusts of up to 60mph.

Please consider the local authorities own planning guidelines too;

<https://www.northwarks.gov.uk/downloads/file/358/material-planning-considerations>

Alternative Locations

It is worth considering alternative locations for the solar farm that would not have such a detrimental impact on listed land and residential areas. There are likely other non-residential, non-historically significant sites that could be more appropriate for this type of development. There is place for solar in the right places, industrial parks, and brownfield sites. This direction should be steered by the local

authority and not by capitalists. Daw Mill is a perfect example where promises made by developers were not maintained. This site was supposed to be returned to its previous state and 15 years later it is still derelict waste. Is there a detailed plan to return the land to its previous state?

Has this been costed and does the plan include where this budget will be held? i.e. will the local council be provided with

£x amount to return the land to its previous state in 2070?
How long would this take 5 years? 10 years? So would the
land become re-usable in 2075? Or 2080?

Summary

In light of these points, I strongly urge the planning department to reject this application. Preservation of our historical land, protection of the local community's quality of life, and consideration of environmental factors should take precedence.

The local and district councils have an obligation to ensure the safety of its residents over any potential business opportunities. I think it's quite important to state that solar farms in general and even more so on agricultural land are not environmentally friendly, they are businesses. The environmental impact of producing the panels (at source), disrupting the landscape over a number of decades is not really environmental friendly.

2 of the objectors are children aged 11 and 14, whilst the solar farm will outlive the majority of the people in the village, the impact for the younger children in the village should also be considered. For the older generation the solar farm is permanent and not temporary. My children are very well aware of the impact of climate change and the need to make changes now to protect the future generations. However they see this application as we all do, a business opportunity using green energy as a mask. This is the wrong location, particularly when there are brown field sites in the area. The local council has a duty to protect the environment for all of its residents.

Thank you for considering my objections.



Additional Supporting Information

Summary of Objection/Rejection reasons

- Use of Grade 2 and 3a land
- 2 Solar farms with 4km
 - How does this impact the weather, temperature and winds. We live on top of the hill and we experience very high gust of winds, with the panels located in the direction the wind predominantly originates from, what will be the impact
- Fire safety – there are 2 farms within 4km, what if there was a fire, how can me and my family escape if we are surrounded by solar farms on fire?
- I suffer from anxiety and moved to this rural village to help with my mental health, the thought of unobstructed

views of black panels is causing me anxiety already.

How will this be addressed, I am very worried.

- No exceptional circumstances to introduce a 3rd and use more Green belt – The only explanation to mitigate this is the use of the word temporary,
- Against local authority plan to reject industrialisation of green belt
- Visual effects plan based on 15 year timescale – impacting residents
- Planned screening by planting vegetation in “gaps” on motorway will not be sufficient as the vegetation has seasonal growth. Glare in winter/Autumn will be highly dangerous, due to the local angle of the sun and the proximity and scale of the farm.
- Visual effect plan ineffective for residents east and north of site.
- No timescales to return site to Green belt after 40 years
- No benefit to local residents – reduction in local energy costs,
- No assessment on residents mental health
- Village demographic not considered, temporary timescales, would be permanent for the majority of the residents. The 15 year visual effect plan would also not benefit a large number of residents.
- Developer acknowledges site is best quality land, but assumes this will be accepted
- Solar farm over farming
- Flood assessment and plans inadequate
- Site has large areas that are North easterly facing. This is not ideal for solar farms, they should be south facing. This areas is also where ethe land is classed as grade 2.
- Review against North Warwickshire Local Plan
- LP3 Green belt – planning will not be approved unless under “Very Special Circumstances”. Already have approved 2 sites, so this is now no longer a very special circumstances.
- Lp14 – This proposal will not look to conserve, enhance, or promote the landscape
- LP29 – This will impact my children. This would be the 3rd solar farm. They will not be able to enjoy the landscape, for the next 15 years due to the visual remediation work. The site will be static for 25 years, before the site is then demolished. With timescale unknown
- LP35 – There has been no consideration to the view point

from our homes. Is this principle really adhered to, or should there be further consultation. Site boundary is within 500 meters from some homes.

- In addition to this we also have the National Grid waiting times for connection to the grid, this would not be the case where we have previous brown field sites, which would have been directly connected sited.
- Site will have cctv and lights, if commissioned in 2021 this would be largest solar farm in UK. This is against the local policy to protecting green built from industrialisation and against North Warwickshire policy to prevent light pollution.
- There is no benefit to local residents. The farmer has previously refused to help with reducing the impact of flooding to the locals village. This farm only benefits someone who doesn't have a direct interest in the local community

Use of agricultural land

22:01 cpreherts.org.uk

THE PROBLEM WITH SOLAR FARMS

SUMMARY OF KEY FACTS

- Solar farms are hugely inefficient.
- Clustering of development around sub-stations has disastrous consequences for the landscape and local amenity. The cumulative effect intensifies the harm caused.
- Solar panels dramatically alter views of the countryside and the key features that punctuate it.
- The character of heritage assets and our appreciation of them can be significantly harmed. Heritage statements commissioned by promoters are usually misleading.
- Best and Most Versatile (BMV) land (Grade 1, 2 & 3a) should not be used for industrial purposes.
- Sequential testing is essential for any proposal involving greenfield land.
- Solar Farms are not environmentally friendly.
- The amenity of neighbouring property can be seriously harmed by secured boundaries and intrusive CCTV.
- It is highly unlikely that the land could return to agriculture in 40 years time.
- How recyclable are the panels?
- Reinstatement bonds are worthless.

“It is not if it views it”

As we we the public wider impact

Greg B Ministe (Speec 25th Apr

Further notes and reference articles supporting the reasons to object.

https://files.bregroup.com/solar/KN5524_Planning_Guidance_reduced.pdf

To add to the land type. Fillongley is a historical agricultural village, the land has been farmed for centuries. This would be 3 solar farm in area which is excessive

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/renewable-and-low-carbon-energy#solar-farms>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/gregory-barker-speech-to-the-large-scale-solar-conference>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2015-03-25/HCWS488>

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CDP-2022-0102/CDP-2022-0102.pdf>

Good quote on page 5 of this last document

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-06-08/debates/137D2865-E237-451F-8262-07923BDDC549/SolarFarmsAndBatteryStorage>

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-7434/CBP-7434.pdf>

Then there is the impact to people:

Proximity of sites to dwellings. Its main street in Fillongley.

The loss of green fields- instead of loss of views is impact to mental health.

The site is on a hill directly facing out homes so how will they hide it with a hedge

They say renewable energy is needed. They are right, but the reason for the rush is- energy prices are the highest they have ever been. The way the energy industry works, is that all producers will sell the energy they produce at an agreed price.

Regardless of the cost to produce. Solar panels are one of the cheapest ways to produce electricity. So low costs high profit. This doesn't actually help any consumer in reducing the energy costs. As we still pay the same amount. The legislation changes that are being talked about, will try and introduce a cap. So if you are a solar farm you are only able to sell a unit of energy for x amount. If you are coal powered this is your limit. All these applications are now being rushed in to get long term deals (30-40 years) locked at these high prices. So for us consumers renewables doesn't bring our prices down. I understand that it's greener but it's all driven financially.

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-10456363/amp/Acres-countryside-solar-farms-protected-environmental-impact-clear.html>

REVIEW OF SUBMITTED PLANS

PLEASE NOTE: The documents have varying figures for the output of the solar farm. They reference either 45.7MW & 45.9MW, THEY DO NOT STATE 47.7MW as per the title of the planning application.

The following section contains reviews and notes against particular areas of the proposal that should be reviewed and support the view that this is not an acceptable proposal,

Review Document: 34573: A5.ED.AH.Iw.PSFillongely

PAGE 5 – States the farm will be 45.9w not 47.7MW

Section 2.9 – The site lies wholly in green built.

Section 2.10 The Site consists of agricultural land which is identified as comprising of Grade 3a (71%) Grade 2 (24%) and Grade 3b (3%) value by the Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) Report submitted as part of the application package. **As such the Site comprises predominantly of Best and Most Versatile (BMV) farmland.**

Section 4.22 – What are the timeframes?

5.3 – Site availability – alternative sites are available - - Daw Mill Colliery, will have direct grid connection capabilities. The local authority

I have also assessed the Solar glare submission and commented below; Attachment reference – 22/02/03: 11370 Land at Nailcote Farm LVA Rev B

Impact to M6

M6 The model has predicted that solar reflections are geometrically possible towards all identified road receptors of the M6 (equivalent to circa 2.0km). Existing screening, mainly in the form of vegetation, is predicted to significantly

obstruct the visibility of the reflective area for a section of M6. For the remaining section (circa 800m), partial visibility of the reflective area is possible. Mitigation is recommended for a circa 600m section due to a lack of significant mitigating factors. Existing screening should be reinforced where there are gaps in the vegetation.

The plan states it will take 15 years for vegetation, hedges and trees to start taking shape. Who accepts the risk to road users during this period? The existing screening is great in the summer, when its Autumn/Winter and there are no leaves, the motorway users will have no screening. The sun is also lower in the colder months so the angle of the light will increase this risk. No mitigation has been provided to address this concern, in any significant detail

Impact to Birmingham Airport

Birmingham International Airport is a licensed airfield located approximately 10km west of the proposed development.

Birmingham International Airport has an ATC Tower and one runway: 15/33. o Approach 15: the proposed development will be within the primary field of view of a pilot approaching runway 15; however, at this distance, any solar reflection Solar Photovoltaic Glint and Glare Study Land at Nailcote Farm 5 will have **“low potential for temporary after-image”**, which is acceptable in accordance with the associated guidance and industry best practice and therefore any impact will not be significant;

Comment – there is a potential to impact a Pilot’s view. Who accepts this “low” risk.

Impact to Camp Farm Airstrip

Birmingham International Airport is a licensed airfield located approximately 10km west of the proposed development.

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Comment – there is a potential to impact a Pilot’s view. Who accepts this “low” risk.

Comment on placement of panels: All panels are south facing: the land is not flat. The maximum height from the ground for each panel will be 1.5meters, will this make the land look flat, rather than a rolling hill?

For Dwellings on top of the hill, there is no screen from vegetation possible, so the comments regarding mitigation are

not true and not applicable. It has been confirmed that Solar glint is possible and no mitigation has been provided.

Are these reports completed by impartial and independent organisations.

This report states the impact to be low: due to distance of the dwellings, and position in relation to the sun.

This is not accurate for we are based in the dwellings highlighted in a section that hasn't been assessed but is easy to see from section 129-123. We are within 350 metres of the proposed site. The site is on a hill, the existing hedges are too low and the trees are either too low or too sparse. In addition in autumn/winter, without the leaves the impact is also lessened. In summary, the major risk is to the motorway, the existing vegetation will not provide screening throughout the year.

Comments - Attachment reference – 22/02/03: 11370 Land at Nailcote Farm LVA Rev B

This application refers to a temporary solar farm. It will take 15 years for impacts of the site development and remediation activities to near completion.

The application notes there is visual impact to residents, it will be at least 15 years before the proposed action to remediate this issue to start taking shape. This is quite significant for a 40 year temporary site.

Please note section 7.5. There visual impact is to all residents in Fillongly on the north eastern boundary

There is also impact to users of the public footpaths and who use the green spaces, please see extract from document below; "It is judged that at completion, the visual effects upon users of this section of the PRoW is likely to be Major/ Moderate Adverse"

This will likely be reduced after 15 years – is this really appropriate and required disruption for a temporary site. 40 year temporary structure – what is the decommission time frame and how many years for the site to then return to green-built and where is the financial model for the decommission and to return the site to green built, will this budget be handed over to the local authority in advance? Will be another 15 years to return the site to its current state? That's an overall 65 year temporary inactive.

Page 49 shows how close "some" of the properties are to the proposed site. If the assessors had turned the camera slightly to the right, they would have captured all the other houses that form are also impacted.

Page 48: The centre of the site is shown, you see the incline, it would be good for a 360 degree view from the centre of the site to show the visual impact, to help provide a more detailed view for the planning officer to assess.

Section 6.46 – acknowledges the impact to the drivers on the M6, this is a very busy motorway. It will take 15 years for the view to be obscured. Is this necessary for a 40 year project? Please see extract from Solar Glint assessment, who is liable for any accidents that occur? The Visual plan has confirmed it will take at least 15 years for the vegetation and remedial works to start taking place.

Document: 22/02/2023: Land at Nailcote Fram – Solar Glint and Glare study

Dwelling Receptors The model has predicted that solar reflections are geometrically possible for 59 out of the 134 identified dwelling receptors. Existing screening, mainly in the form of vegetation, is predicted to significantly obstruct views of the reflective area for 43 out of these 59 dwellings. For the remaining 18 dwelling receptors, views of the reflecting area cannot be ruled out, based on a 1 Solar Photovoltaic Development – Glint and Glare Guidance Fourth Edition, September 2022. Solar Photovoltaic Glint and Glare Study Land at Nailcote Farm 4 review of the available imagery. Despite solar reflections being experienced for more than three months per year but less than 60 minutes on any given day, significant mitigating factors have been identified such as: • The visible reflective area being at a significant distance from an observer within the dwellings; • The Sun light and the reflected light originating from the same point in space, with the Sun being a much brighter source of light. Therefore, a low impact is predicted and no mitigation is recommended

Areas of particular note:

Site Location: Page 4 –

Confirms settlements in close proximity to site: Fillongley 560 metres, Corley Ash 600 metres and Corley moor 620meters

Proposed Development States the farm will provide 45.9MW, but application states 47.7MW

Does this need to be re-submitted with correct information?

Assessment of Visual effects: Page 7

Please make note of section 2.18 –

Designations: Page 13:

There are numerous listed buildings nearby. The closest being Grade II listed entries, these include White House Farm located approx. 220m west of the Site and the Cartshed and Granary located 380m north of the Site.

The site is also located within the Birmingham Green Belt.

Topography: Page 14:

The proposed site is on a hill, which is largely East Facing. Page 45 highlights the topography it is north eastern facing in some places – these boundaries are closed to the residents homes -

Page 15: Landscape Value:

Public footpath passes through the site

Section 4.34 - It is considered that the Site and the local landscape does not display any pronounced sense of scenic quality such that it is ‘out of the ordinary’ in landscape terms. Views north, east and west from the Site provide some attractive views of rolling hills, woodland blocks and farms. The views south are dominated by the M6 corridor, which creates an abrupt less attractive edge. Overall, the Site and its immediate context is considered to be of medium scenic value.

Page 18: Summary of Visual Baseline;

Primary receptors (i.e. those who will experience views of the Site) are generally limited to residents on the southern edge of Fillongley and eastern edge Corley Ash and users of the immediate footpath network

Page 20: Operation

Will have a Negligible effect at completion and at year 15 –
Regional level: Warwickshire Landscape Guidelines 6.8 The Site lies wholly within the Ancient Arden Landscape Character Area. The Site shares many of the key characteristics with this LCA. These include; “A small scale farmed landscape with a varied, undulating topography, characterised by an irregular pattern of fields and narrow, winding lanes”, “A varied undulating topography.”, ... confined by tall hedge banks.”, “An ancient irregular pattern of small to medium sized fields.” and “Hedgerow and roadside oaks.”

County Level: North Warwickshire LCA 6.12 The entirety of the Site lies within the LCA7 “Church End to Corley – Arden Hills and Valleys” The Site shares many of the key characteristics with this LCT. These include “An elevated farmed landscape of low, rounded hills, steep scarps and small incised valleys. This landform combined with extensive hilltop woodlands and tree cover creates an intricate and small-scale character, punctuated by numerous scattered farms, and hamlets.” and “This settled landscape includes a dense network of older hamlets and farmsteads, ancient moated Sites such as at Astley Castle” and “...Collectively, and combined with the M6 motorway and lines of pylons within the south, this area has many suburban elements.”

Page 22: At completion, the landscape effects are judged to be **Moderate Adverse**

Section 6.22 The settlement edge of Fillongley, topographical

changes and series of strong field boundaries limit views of the Site from the north, the western and eastern boundaries are generally more open as the landform rises in these locations. The visual envelope extends approximately 1.2km east and 850m north west beyond the Site. The VE extent is limited from the south, this is largely due to the M6 corridor, intact field boundaries and tree belts.

This contradicts earlier statements,. Confirmed there are dwellings within 600 metres, the site is on a hill, this is visible to residents north and east of the site. Yet this states there are strong field boundaries?

6.29 Receptor A: Residents of Fillongley (Southern Boundary): 6.29 The proposed development will only be glimpsed at best from south facing windows from residents on the south west of Fillongley. Proposed development will be seen beyond intervening tree belts and will constitute a small part of the overall view. The immediate view of existing tree belt located along the south west of Fillongley, will filter views south and help to readily assimilate the development at completion. By year 15 the existing tree belt will become denser and continue to filter views and new planting within the site will assist with softening views in places. Resultant visual effects for the residents at receptor A are judged to be Minor Adverse at completion and in the long term.

No number of trees will hide this site. This statement is misleading. There is no viewpoint provided from the north east of this site looking towards the site, why has this not been recorded in this assessment.

For many residents in Fillongley, 15 years will be a lifetime.

Page 15: Landscape Value:

Public footpath passes through the site

Section 4.34 - It is considered that the Site and the local landscape does not display any pronounced sense of scenic quality such that it is 'out of the ordinary' in landscape terms.

Views north, east and west from the Site provide some attractive views of rolling hills, woodland blocks and farms.. Overall, the Site and its immediate context is considered to be of medium scenic value.

Our homes are not on the official plans. How can these be approved without accurate maps?

Rec'd 4/1/24

orate

Temple Gage,
Bristol,
BS1 6PN

Dear Sir,

Mr. Jeff Brown, Head of Development Control Services at The Council House Atherstone has informed us of Appeal APP/R3705/W/24/3349391. Mr. Brown said any written comments should be sent to you. We would like to comment as follows:-

We feel Green Belt land should remain Green Belt land. Once it has been taken from that category it will never regain its Green Belt status and its glory will be lost forever. The Appellant's intentions for the land at Park House Farm to be used as a Solar Farm temporary may be sincere at the moment but may well change 40 years from now. Should the site come up for 'Grabs' any number of commercial enterprises may be considered.

The landscape of the midlands has been destroyed of late, villages torn apart, countryside hacked up to make way for High Speed Rail. It would make more sense to erect Solar Panels beside the rail track rather than damage yet more countryside.

Moor land at Corley Moor, near the proposed Power Farm has recently been designated as a Sanctuary for wild life and nature. One more reason why the Solar Farm proposal should be regarded as wrong for this area.

Common Lane is already a busy thoroughfare with cars and lorries speeding from one place to another without introducing more traffic to come and go from Park House Farm.

We urge you to do all you can to preserve Green Belt land it is precious - once lost it will be lost forever, taken from the next generation.

Rec'd 13/11/24

REF NO

APP/R3705/W/24/3349391



DEAR SIRS,

I HAVE SEEN WILDLIFE DISAPPEAR
BY 50% IN THE FULFORDY AREA, IN MY VERY
SHORT SPACE OF TIME ON PLANET EARTH.

LOOK AT THE MAP.

BETWEEN COVENTRY AND BIRMINGHAM, PRECIOUS
LITTLE, FARM LAND AND WALK WAYS
ARE LEFT.

PLEASE LEAVE US A LITTLE SPACE, TO
GET OUR BOOTS MUDDY, A LITTLE LONGER.

PRINCIPAL AREA FOR SOLAR. ALONGSIDE HS2
RILL, ALREADY LOST.



Reference number :APP/R3705/W/24/3349391

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to voice my opinions about the recent Fillongley solar farm planning application, which would significantly affect myself and others around me. Though I am only 15 I have been taught at home and school to always voice your opinions and 'have the confidence to do what's right'. In this scenario I believe it is 'right' to write this letter, conveying my thoughts and the reasoning behind them. As my house would be located roughly 500 meters from the potential solar farm, not only would it disrupt the aesthetics of my garden (a key factor of moving into this house) it would disrupt the community built between myself and my neighbours as some have told us they are highly likely to move if the plans are approved. My neighbours felt before as though they had finally a place to settle down and enjoy retirement in their picturesque garden in which they take pride and decorate beautifully. The solar panels would mean more hassle and people moving out of the area which is very disheartening after making many close connections and working as a team to clear the leaves and do other jobs together. Furthermore, these plans affect me more not only because my garden and bedroom would overlook them but because I am a young person in society and our voices are often neglected or 'pushed aside' because of our age. But we are the people who will live and grow up with changes made. Changes that should deeply consider their future impact before being made. Additionally, I have chosen photography as a GCSE and have begun to create coursework based on the fields behind my garden as the theme is 'nature'. Having solar panels outside would greatly affect my coursework as solar panels are man-made, thus affecting my grade and potentially career options. This would affect my mental health as I am a high achiever and am very motivated to be successful in all aspects of my life – a dream of which being to go to UCL or ICL. Though, I am aware that solar panels are helping to save our planet by reducing our compliancy of using non renewable energy sources, I am sure that they could be placed in an area of derelict farmland. Farmland here is used to grow food produce which accounts for 60 percent of food in the UK which is crucial to food security. As they say 'a little goes a long way' which has been proven especially in terms of the environment in which making little changes in your life can change the bigger picture, the same of which can be said for making good farmland redundant. I hope that you reconsider after learning this will affect my community, my mental health and my garden. Kind regards,



This is the view of my garden from my bedroom window.