

The following paper outlines why planning permission MUST be refused for the solar panel farm in Fillongley.

1. Solar Panels are inefficient

Whilst there are 3 different types of solar panels (Monocrystalline, Polycrystalline, and Thin-film) that range in efficiency they also vary in cost. In general, solar panels are rated to perform at peak efficiency between 59F (15C and 35C) and 95F. This means that the panels will be most efficient during the summer when electricity demand is at its lowest. Outside of this temperature range the efficiency by which the panels decrease does depend on the panel type but for every one degree above 25C the maximum efficiency will decrease by 0.38%. This means that as the temperatures in the UK in the summer months continue to rise the efficiency of the solar panel continues to reduce. (www.bostonsolar.us)

Notwithstanding the temperature range within which the panels operate they are only able to convert around 20% of sunlight into usable energy. Whilst this has increased from the previous 15% this still renders them highly inefficient. The most expensive solar panel conversion rate is only 23%. This means that even when they are working at full temperate capacity, they will still only be able to convert around 20% of the sunlight they capture anyway. Battery storage can improve the situation slightly but storing some of this energy for later use. This means that any houses that are alleged to benefit from the panels will still be heavily reliant on (fossil fuel power produced by) the National Grid.

A report by Netzerowatch.com states that 'it has been calculated that most UK solar farms will never get beyond 12% of their true capacity in the course of a year'. In April 2021, a month that was unusually sunny, dry and warm solar panels only contributed 7% to the National Grid. In December 2020 the contribution was a little as 0.67% of the total energy produced by the grid. (www.netzerowatch.com Solar farms: A toxic blot on the landscape)

In terms of the longevity of the efficiency of the panels manufacturers of the panels typically warrantee them to retain 80% of their 20% efficiency for around 20 years. This means that they will lose around 1% of their efficiency every year. (www.hazardouswasteexperts.com)

New research on the coming solar panel crisis along with rising blackouts from renewables, reinforces the inherent flaws in solar and other forms of renewable energy. Over-relying on solar panels and underestimating the need for nuclear and natural gas, resulted in California's blackouts in 2020. (www.forbes.com Dark Side of Solar? More reports tie panel production to toxic pollution)

A 140- acre solar park is said to only be capable of supplying electricity to about 9,000 homes. This is incredibly inefficient in comparison to off-shore wind farm. One wind turbine in the North Sea can power 18,000 homes.

2. UK relies too heavily on food importation; we should and need to be self-sufficient!

The UK currently only produces 60% of its domestic food consumption. In 2020 only 71% of the UK is used for agricultural production. Domestic production faces a number of long-term and short-term risks, including soil degradation, drought and flooding, diseases, risks to fuel and fertiliser supplies, and a changing labour market. (www.gov.uk United Kingdom Food Security Report 2021: Theme 2: UK Food Supply Sources). As more and more agricultural land is used to house solar panel farms clearly solar panels need to be added to that list.

The UK only produces a little over 50% of vegetables it consumed domestically, and only 16% of fruit. It is therefore not self-sufficient and has to rely heavily on imports. The consequence of this is that in February 2023 supermarkets are rationing vegetable purchases due to issues with production and importations from other countries. This is on top of increasing food costs. The UK must utilise its agricultural land and produce more of its own fruit and vegetables in order to become increasingly self-sufficient; the consequences of not doing this could be devastating for future generations. The reasons for the shortages are cited as, including, Brexit, cold weather in Spain and extreme weather in Morocco. (www.telegraph.co.uk Why are UK supermarkets rationing fruit and vegetables?).

We must improve food security in the UK and help to tackle austerity for both now and future generations. Producing home grown fruit and vegetables enhances the environment (human health, reducing pollution in the atmosphere, and for wildlife) and reduces the carbon footprint of imports. Growing our own fruit and vegetables and minimising importation would be arguably far more beneficial for the environment than the little return that solar panels may offer.

In spite of cold weather in the UK it is possible to grow fruits such as tomatoes in the winter (one of the fruits currently being rationed). According to experts these fruits can be grown in greenhouses in the winter. (www.express.co.uk 'Ideal place for them': How to grow tomatoes in winter successfully – it's essential'). This is, after all, how fruit and vegetables are produced in Spain in the winter months.

Taking away agricultural land prevents the UK from utilising its land to become self-sufficient in the growth and consumption of fruit and vegetables. Importing such high volumes of food is not environmentally sustainable and air miles contradict claims of caring for the environment and reducing our carbon footprint. Surely becoming self-sufficient in terms of food would be more helpful for our carbon footprint and to achieve this we need our arable land for farming. Use arable land for farming and not destructive solar panels.

3. Already far too much land has been lost to solar panels in North Warwickshire

153 acres of arable land in Nuneaton, land that should be used for growing food, has already been shamefully handed over for a solar panel farm. Notwithstanding the inefficiencies noted in this paper, all of this land has been lost in the interests of powering a mere 5,500 homes in North Warwickshire. (www.astleygorgesolarfarm.com). It's hard to

imagine how this can ever be approved or justified. This equates to mass destruction of countryside and desperately needed arable fields for the sake of some of the power (mostly during the summer months) for 5,500 houses.

4. UK government (PM Rishi Sunak) has vowed to prevent agricultural land from being used for solar panel farms.

The Prime Minister has stated that he will not support solar panels to be put on agricultural land. (www.telegraph.co.uk Rishi Sunak: We won't lose out best farmland to solar panels. 18 August 2022). Consenting to any planning request for a solar farm in Fillongley flies in the face to the Conservative governments policy. Surely a Conservative Council agrees with a Conservative government.

5. Agricultural land used for panels cannot always be returned to agriculture

Land is being taken out of cultivation at the rate of almost 100,000 acres per year. The yields from the land, due to global warming, are also declining meaning that arable land is more valuable than ever; food importation is contributing to climate change. The amount of arable land in the UK in 2018 stood at 14.8 million acres; the lowest since World War 2.

Solar panels can leak chemicals into the ground through poor manufacturing and extreme weather conditions. (www.unboundsolar.com Can Solar Modules Harm Underlying Soil?). Given that the UK is in the grip of increasing weather extremities, high winds, rainfall/flooding, water and drought it can only be concluded that such instances of toxic leaking through weather damage will become increasingly more common. (www.earth.org The Future of Extreme Weather Events and Climate Change in the UK).

Where toxic chemicals leak from the panels into the ground it can mean that the ground will no longer be suitable for arable use in the future. (www.discovermagazine.com Solar Panel Waste: The Dark Side of Clean Energy).

6. Threat to wildlife

Solar panels are responsible for the deaths of tens of thousands of birds every year. In 2016, a study in the US estimated that solar farms may kill nearly 140,000 birds annually. Whilst the study was unable to cite why this is the case a leading theory suggests that the birds mistake the glare of the panels for the surface of a lake and swoop in to land. (www.wired.com Why do solar farms kill birds? Call in the AI bird watcher)

Nesting pair of Red Kites – a protected species

The Red Kite became extinct in England in 1871 and in Scotland in 1879. Whilst reintroduction has been successful it is now a protected bird in the UK under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 (www.wildlifetrusts.org The Red Kite). There are nesting and breeding Red Kites in the fields/surrounding fields that are subject to the planning consent for the Fillongley Solar Panel farm.

Other bird species

This means that the panels would present a danger to all birds in the area, including but not limited to other protected birds such as, Buzzards, Kestrels, Hobby's and Owls (to name but a few of the birds in the area in question).

Bats

There are a number of bats in the area and the same can be said for them. Whilst the aforementioned study did not include bats it can be assumed that they will also mistake the glass for water, thereby resulting in their death. (www.cpreherts.org.uk The problem with solar farms). Bats are also seen over the land and are presumed to be nesting in that area. Bats are protected by national and international law. All species of bat, their breeding sites and resting places are strictly protected in England under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Deer and Badgers

In addition to the birds in the area there is a great deal of other wildlife that will be affected. Transitory animals, such as deer, have their traditional routes blocked and can be driven onto the roads. There are also badgers present on the land and both badgers and their sets are protected under the Protection of Badgers Act 1991 in England and Wales.

7. Panels can leak toxic chemicals into the waterways

Studies have shown that that heavy materials in solar panels, namely lead and cadmium, can leach out of the cells and get into ground water this will have longer term effects on the land upon which they sit. These materials have been shown to have a detrimental effect on human health. (www.discovermagazine.com Solar Panel Waste: The Dark Side of Clean Energy). There are streams and waterways on the land in question.

8. The parts for the panels are immorally made by cheap labour

A major concern that is seldom highlighted, and a major issue that needs to be addressed, is that both the key materials and the panels themselves are being made by forced labour in Xinjiang province in China. (www.forbes.com Dark Side of Solar? More reports tie panel production to toxic pollution)

China has been reported to use 'forced labor in conditions that the U.S government representatives [...] describes as "genocide" and "slavery"'. Goldman Sachs, reported that 'the Chinese government admits that it operates "surplus labor" programs to relocate millions of people from their homes in Xinjiang. It simply denies that it uses coercion in such relocations. Whilst claims have been made that the process is being automated the truth is that the panels are simply too delicate and they can be easily broken if not handled properly'. (www.publicsubstack.com China Made Solar Cheap With Coal, Subsidies, And "Slave" Labor – Not Efficiency)

9. Carbon footprint of solar panels

Questions clearly remain about whether the production and waste of panels creates more pollutants than the fossil fuels they aim to replace.

The component parts and well as the panels themselves are made in Xinjiang province of China. "Xinjiang has become a major polysilicon production hub in China, as the industry requires extensive amounts of energy, and that makes relatively cheaper electricity and abundant thermal power..." The panels are then shipped around the world. (www.publicsubstack.com China Made Solar Cheap With Coal, Subsidies, And "Slave" Labor – Not Efficiency). The carbon footprint for production is therefore high as are the air miles for shipping them around the world.

Notwithstanding these costs the manufacturing of solar panels often requires the use of several noxious chemicals. The panels require pure silicon because the crystal structure it forms is most conducive to letting electrons flow. Production commonly includes, nitrogen trifluoride and sulphur hexafluoride, some of the most harmful greenhouse gases around. Normally silicon can be recycled but the added chemicals of lead and cadmium make this very difficult. The lifespan of these panels is between 20 and 30 years and disposing of them is difficult. (www.discovermagazine.com Solar Panel Waste: The Dark Side of Clean Energy)

The toxic nature of solar panels makes their environmental impacts worse than just the quantity of waste. Solar panels are delicate and break easily and when they do they instantly become hazardous due to their heavy content. They are in fact classified as hazardous waste. (www.forbes.com Dark Side of Solar? More reports tie panel production to toxic pollution)

Research finds that solar panels in use degrade twice as fast as the industry claimed and another report found that panels have been suffering a rising failure rate even before entering service. (www.forbes.com Dark Side of Solar? More reports tie panel production to toxic pollution). Thereby potentially creating yet more waste.

The EU requires solar companies to collect and recycle their panels with these costs built into the build costs but as outlined above this carries a significant carbon footprint. A study published in *Harvard Business Review* (HBR), finds that the waste produced by solar panels will make electricity from solar panels four times more expensive than the world's leading energy analysts thought and will 'darken quickly as the industry sinks under the weight of its own trash'. (www.forbes.com Dark Side of Solar? More reports tie panel production to toxic pollution)

Most solar recycling plants simply remove the silver and copper from the cells and recycle the contaminated glass and plastic casing by burning them in cement ovens. 100% of the aluminium and 95% of the glass is used again. The temperature required to separate these parts of 500C, no doubt achieved by the use of fossil fuels; even the recycling process carries a heavy carbon footprint.

This is time-consuming and costly so most companies simply export the waste to third world countries. Most third world countries are unable to dispose of these correctly and they are placed in landfill and left to leach the metals into the ground. It is projected that by 2050 there will be 80 million tons of solar waste.

It has been reported in *Forbes* that solar panels aren't in fact clean but rather produce 300 times more toxic waste than high-level nuclear waste. In contrast to nuclear waste, which is safely stored, solar panel waste risks exposing the countryside and air to toxic chemicals. (www.forbes.com Dark Side of Solar? More reports tie panel production to toxic pollution)

10. They are ugly and a blot on the landscape

It cannot be disputed that these solar panel farms present a 'blot on the landscape'. They destroy the aesthetics of the natural beautiful landscape. This landscape is enjoyed by our communities, with people visiting from out of area to enjoy the walks.

11. There are numerous brown filled sites and roofs that could be utilised instead.

If the Council disregards the heavy environmental and humanitarian cost associated by these panels, it should at least only consent to planning for brown filled sites.

Conclusion

In conclusion it is irrefutable that solar panels present a significant carbon footprint. They arguably inflict as much damage onto the environment as they seek to remove, if not much more. Allowing these corporate companies, with an interest in financial gain, to destroy the environment by establishing solar panels must be stopped.

'The idea that humankind should turn our gaze away from urgent problems like genocide, toxic waste, and land use impacts because they complicate longer term concerns is precisely the kind of unsustainable thinking that allowed the world to become dependent on toxic solar genocide panels in the first place'. (www.forbes.com Dark Side of Solar? More reports tie panel production to toxic pollution)

One can only conclude that any Council that grants planning for these solar panel farms has a flagrant disregard for the environment, humanity and the future of the planet. The carbon footprint and humanitarian cost is far greater than any benefit these panels can possibly provide to the environment. The measly amount of energy that these panels actually produce can in no way be considered 'green' when their carbon footprint is examined.

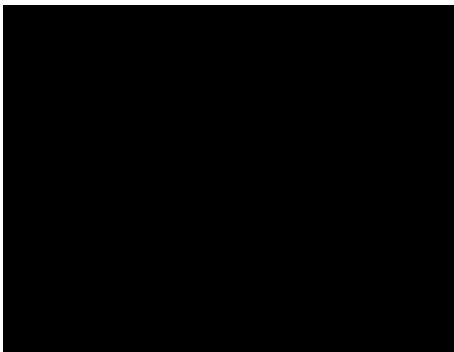
From: nlpg@northwarks.gov.uk
Sent: 15 March 2023 13:52
To: [planappconsult](#)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access

Categories: Netty

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Application Reference No. : PAP/2023/0071

Site Address: Land 800 Metres South Of Park House Farm Meriden Road Fillongley



Submission: Objection

Comments: - Size of development totally inappropriate for a site so close to residential properties in a rural village

- Significant negative visual impact for residents living adjacent to the site boundary
- Negative visual impact for users of the footpath and bridleway which cross the proposed development, including walkers, cyclists, local residents and those travelling from further afield
- Detrimental impact on Landscape Character, turning an expansive, tranquil landscape into a semi-industrial, utility-grade power complex
- Loss of arable land and agricultural productivity at a time of economic uncertainty
- Transport impacts on local road network during construction
- Anticipated negative impacts on local wildlife habitats
- Negative impacts on local heritage
- Potential noise and vibration impact

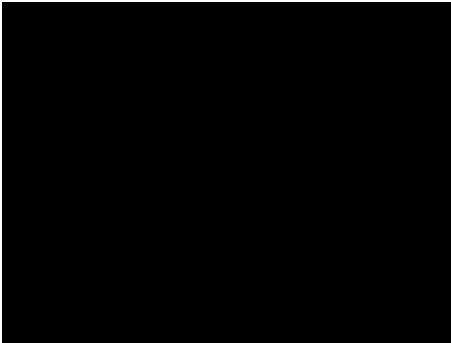
Why not use brownfield sites? Building rooftops? etc.

From: nlpg@northwarks.gov.uk
Sent: 16 March 2023 09:46
To: [planappconsult](#)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access

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Application Reference No. : PAP/2023/0071

Site Address: Land 800 Metres South Of Park House Farm Meriden Road Fillongley



Submission: Objection

Comments: NO GUARANTEE that the land will be returned to green belt probably re designated as BROWN field there is still not enough land for food production how are all the inhabitants going to be fed more imported food

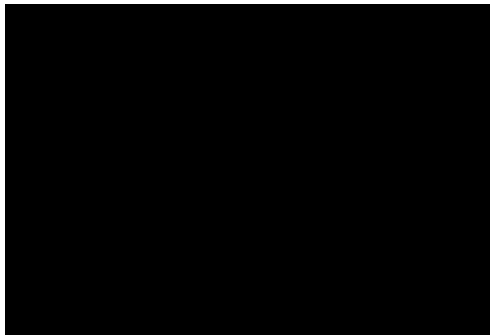
From: nlpg@northwarks.gov.uk
Sent: 11 March 2023 12:33
To: [planappconsult](#)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access

Categories: Emma

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Application Reference No. : PAP/2023/0071

Site Address: Land 800 Metres South Of Park House Farm Meriden Road Fillongley



Submission: Support

Comments: Fully support the application. Happy that it is low rise; static, and not noisy. It is important that we do what we can to improve the amount of solar power produced

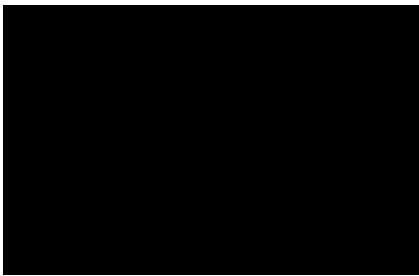
From: nlpg@northwarks.gov.uk
Sent: 12 March 2023 09:42
To: [planappconsult](#)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access

Categories: Emma

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Application Reference No. : PAP/2023/0071

Site Address: Land 800 Metres South Of Park House Farm Meriden Road Fillongley



Phone:

Email:

Submission: Objection

Comments: This development will remove a large area of agricultural land which is currently used for growing crops. Given the need to increase rather than decrease the UK's food production, removing such a large productive area is wrong. Although there is no proposal to divert or close public rights of way, they will be significantly impacted. At present there is a footpath across these fields which, instead of being an open path along the bottom of a wide valley with open views, will become a narrow alley between security fences with solar panels on both sides. The company has said that it has a community engagement strategy. So far this has consisted of a single letter requesting a response to a very limited questionnaire which had to be responded to within a short period. This cannot be described as effective community engagement. Whilst I understand the need to increase the availability of renewal energy rather than that produced by fossil fuels there must be plenty of areas where solar panels could be installed without removing agricultural land from production.

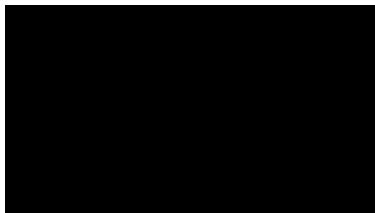
From: nlpg@northwarks.gov.uk
Sent: 12 March 2023 17:32
To: [planappconsult](#)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access

Categories: Emma

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Application Reference No. : PAP/2023/0071

Site Address: Land 800 Metres South Of Park House Farm Meriden Road Fillongley



Phone:

Email:

Submission: Objection

Comments: I object to the planning application for the following reasons:

Solar farms are inefficient compared to wind turbines, and the Government is supporting North Sea wind questioning the long term demand for Solar farms. The demand is not aligned with generation e.g. produces maximum electricity in the summer whereas demand is in the winter. Dramatically alters the greenbelt landscape and industrialises the neighbouring properties and village. Greatly impacts the local wildlife including deer and their traditional routes being blocked. Questions the carbon footprint and decommissioning, how recyclable are the panels? Birds and bats mistake the glass panels for water causing injury and death. The land is degraded due to shadows and rain water runs. The panels can overheat and noise pollution if cooling fans are used. Overall some of the promoting arguments like grazing sheep or bee keeping maybe considered small gestures and does not compensate losing our greenbelt.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 March 2023 15:04
To: [planappconsult](#)
Subject: planning application PAP/2023/0071

Categories: Emma

Caution: This is an external email. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments. When in doubt, contact the ServiceDesk

Dear Sirs,

Ref. planning application PAP/2023/0071

With reference to the above application which you are considering at the moment, we would like to comment as follows:

The land which the applicant Enviromena Project Management UK Ltd are requesting changing into a Solar Farm is GREEN BELT land and GREEN BELT should remain just that. If the applicant is really on the side of the environment then this is not the area they should be considering.

The Common very near to the Park House Farm has been declared an area to be preserved and wild life is to be protected at all times. Features such as ponds etc will be maintained and wild life encouraged on the Common. To build a Solar Farm along with the structures that will entail is not in keeping with plans for that area at all.

Would it be better for Solar Energy to be obtained from equipment housed off shore. The tidal rise and fall is the third highest in the world. A system using the power of the sea would not take up land or depend on sunlight, that must be the way forward surely????

Please respect the green belt area when you make your decision.

[REDACTED]

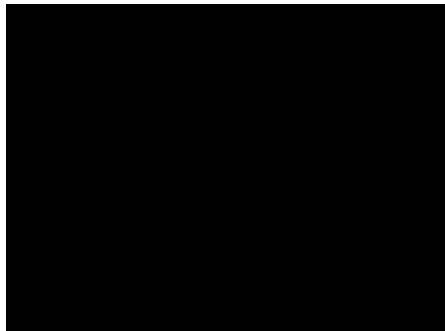
From: nlpg@northwarks.gov.uk
Sent: 13 March 2023 17:41
To: [planappconsult](#)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access

Categories: Emma

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Application Reference No. : PAP/2023/0071

Site Address: Land 800 Metres South Of Park House Farm Meriden Road Fillongley



Submission: Neither

Comments: I believe the solar panels will be sited on greenbelt land, is this not protected, or supposed be protected? Fillongley itself was taken out of the greenbelt to allow infill, this allowed a lot of housing development to take place.

What is the solar companies primary motivation for building the solar farm, to reduce pollution or make profits?

Why when the council gives planning permission for all the new build housing projects does it not insist on solar panels being fitted to the roofs? This would more than match the proposed site in scale.

Will Fillongley residents receive a discount on their Energy as proposed for wind farm developments.

Why is energy produced by solar and wind costing the same as that produced by gas?

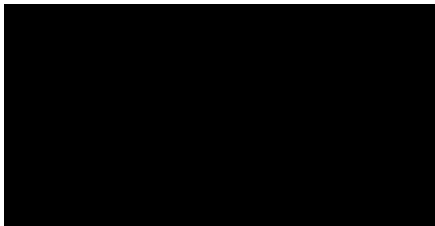
From: nlpg@northwarks.gov.uk
Sent: 14 March 2023 10:45
To: [planappconsult](#)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access

Categories: Emma

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Application Reference No. : PAP/2023/0071

Site Address: Land 800 Metres South Of Park House Farm Meriden Road Fillongley



Phone:
Email:
Submission: Objection
Comments:

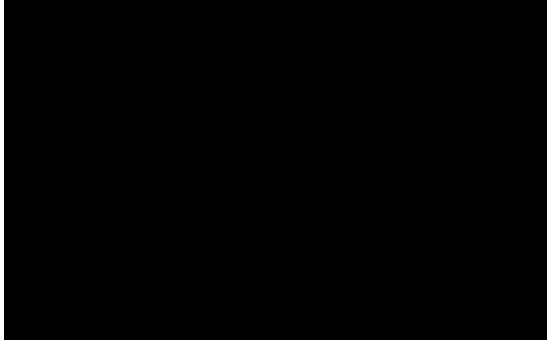
1. Visual impact: This would be an eye sore on the countryside that will negatively impact the surrounding area and could affect the property values.
2. Noise pollution: The constant noise from the farm when the wind is blowing in a certain direction. Residents already suffer from this from the M6 and the airport.
3. Environmental Impact: valuable farming land, in a time when we are looking to farm and produce locally. Impact on local wildlife.
4. Alternative solutions: Have these considered such as wind or hydroelectric power that would be less invasive and more efficient.
5. Constant development in Fillongley affecting residents, two housing developments have already taken place against objections. Local residents chose to live in a village not in an over developed location.

From: nlpg@northwarks.gov.uk
Sent: 21 March 2023 15:14
To: [planappconsult](#)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access

Caution: Warning external email

Application Reference No. : PAP/2023/0071

Site Address: Land 800 Metres South Of Park House Farm Meriden Road Fillongley



Submission: Objection

Comments: I am writing to object to the proposed solar farm south of the village of Fillongley.
PAP/2023/0071

The proposal is for a significant development covering many acres of agricultural land. This land is a valuable residential amenity, visually the fields are a huge asset to the area, offering wide expansive countryside vistas. The site is crossed by several footpaths which are used daily by local walkers from the surrounding villages and area and also visiting walkers. The paths are a part of the Coventry Way a footpath which circles the City of Coventry. Whilst I realise that the paths will remain in situ the experience of walking through open fields with expansive views will be lost as one of the paths will fall in between rows and rows of solar panels. It will be like walking through an industrial site not a rural area as it is now.

Furthermore, it is an undulating, sloping site. The land rises to a height of 148 metres and is higher than the Meriden Fillongley Road. The hillside to the east of the stream at the centre of the proposed development is in full view of the road. It is one of the expansive vistas I referred to earlier. It is in a direct line of site from the road therefore, any construction on that hillside will be visible both from the road and from the high land to the west. There is a well-used footpath which runs across that higher land to the north west of White House Farm, the proposed development will be fully visible from that high land and that footpath. No amount of screening will obscure the site and any attempt to screen it will seriously detract from the visual appeal of the land.

My objection also concerns the effect that the proposed development might have upon the drainage characteristics of the streams that flow across and originate in the area of the proposal. As I am sure you are aware several properties in the centre of the village suffer from catastrophic flooding in periods of high rainfall. There is considerable evidence to support this point. The causes of the flooding are closely linked to the runoff from the M6 motorway and the two streams that flow into the village from the south and the south west. One of these streams flows directly through the proposed solar development.

As a member of the Fillongley Flood Group I have been actively involved with trying to develop a flood resilience plan for the village, a key part to that plan is to decrease the discharge of the streams and watercourse to the south of the village and to increase the time taken for flood waters to reach the village centre.

Any development on the land covered by this proposal or indeed any alteration of its land use cannot be allowed to increase the discharge of this stream. To do so would be catastrophic for the village centre and the properties that flood.

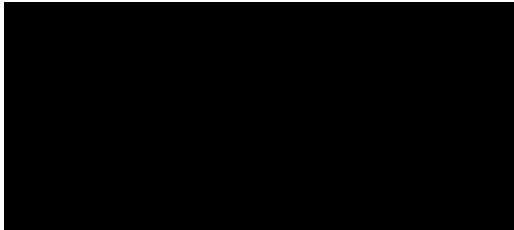
Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

From: nlpg@northwarks.gov.uk
Sent: 18 March 2023 12:50
To: [planappconsult](#)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access

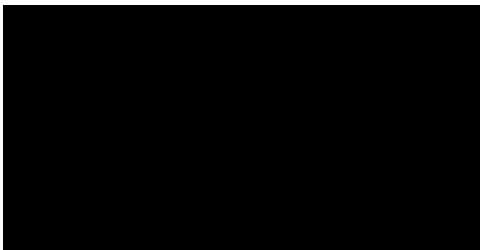
Caution: Warning external email

Application Reference No. : PAP/2023/0071

Site Address: Land 800 Metres South Of Park House Farm Meriden Road Fillongley



Phone:
Email:
Submission: Objection



Reference : PAP/2023/0071

Objection/Rejection to plan

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 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 overfarming
- ¿ 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 prosoal 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 the landscape, for the next 15 years due to the visual remedaution work. The site will be static for 25 years,m before the sit 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.

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/>

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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

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The application note 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.

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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 Farm 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 620metres

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.

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From: nlpg@northwarks.gov.uk
Sent: 18 March 2023 13:08
To: [planappconsult](#)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access

Caution: Warning external email

Application Reference No. : PAP/2023/0071

Site Address: Land 800 Metres South Of Park House Farm Meriden Road Fillongley

Phone:
Email:
Submission: Objection
Comments:

Reference : PAP/2023/0071

Objection/Rejection to plan

¿ Use of Grade 2 and 3a land

¿ 2 Solar farms with 4km

o 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 predominally originates from, what will be the impact

¿ Fire safety ¿ there are 2 farms with 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 overfarming
- ¿ 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 prososal 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 the landscape, for the next 15 years due to the visual remedaution work. The site will be static for 25 years,m before the sit 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.

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.

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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 capture al the other houses that form are also impacted.

Page 48: The centre of the site is shown, you see the incline, it would be god 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 DevelopmentStates the farm will provide 45.9MW, but application states 47.7MW

Does this need to be re-submiited 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.

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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.

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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:

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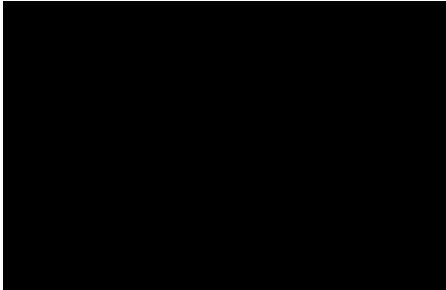
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From: nlpg@northwarks.gov.uk
Sent: 19 March 2023 15:59
To: [planappconsult](#)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access

Caution: Warning external email

Application Reference No. : PAP/2023/0071

Site Address: Land 800 Metres South Of Park House Farm Meriden Road Fillongley



Email:

Submission: Objection

Comments: Any loss of viable farm land should be carefully considered given the importance of feeding the country from local sources. This is important to local people, me, and it should be a concern for all. I am also objecting to the usage of green belt land as it will turn a rural landscape into an industrialised manufactured bed of metal and electronics. Yes, footpaths may be altered to ensure access is maintained however residents of Fillongley want to walk in the countryside. If they wanted to walk alongside industry, I believe we would commute to Bayton Road Industrial estate for our Sunday walks. Therefore I object to altering the ancient landscape and turning it into a solar farm in this area. In existing areas of industry it may be more suitable to build a similar site.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 March 2023 14:17
To: planappconsult
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Application Ref. PAP/2023/0071 Proposed Solar Farm, Fillongley

Caution: Warning external email

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 Far Parks residents although they will be submitting their own individual objections.

Kind regards



From: nlpg@northwarks.gov.uk
Sent: 20 March 2023 14:31
To: [planappconsult](#)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access

Caution: Warning external email

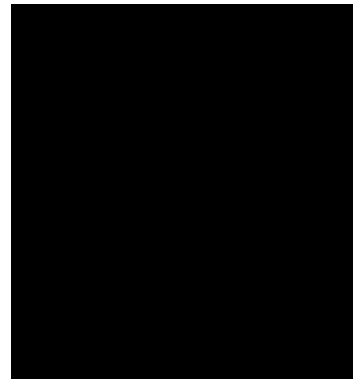
Application Reference No. : PAP/2023/0071

Site Address: Land 800 Metres South Of Park House Farm Meriden Road Fillongley

Submission: Objection

Comments: I object to the application because it will use up a significant amount of good agricultural land. I am in favour of solar power but it should use brown field sites, or last shed roofs, and not good agricultural land which will harm our food security.

Mr J Brown BA Dop TP MRTPI
Head Of Development Control Service
The Council House
South Street
Atherstone
Warwickshire



CV9 1DE

Reference : PAP/2023/0071

Objection/Rejection to plan

Summary

- Use of Grade 2 and 3a land
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- Lp14 – This prosoal will not look to conserve, enhance, or promote the landscape
- 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 as the distance from our homes is less than 350 meters.

- Our houses are not shown on the application plan as a ruse to show no dwellings near the site
- The site will have flood lights and a 3 Meter high fence around it (like a prison)

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 \(bregroup.com\)](#)

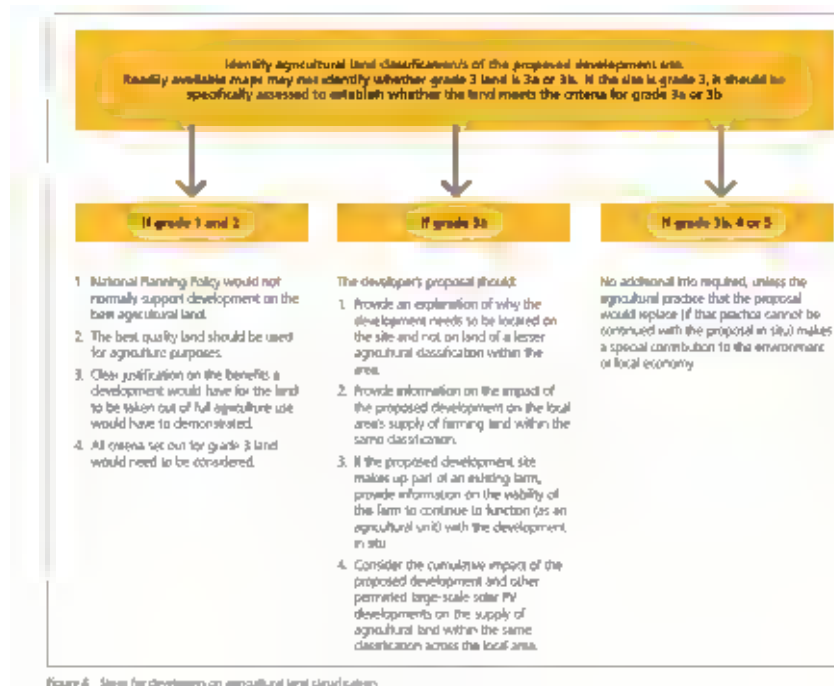


Figure 4: Steps for developers on agricultural land classification

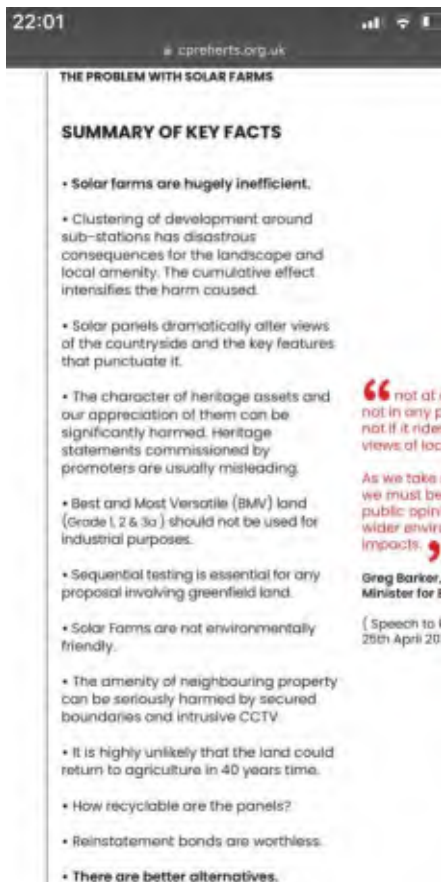
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There is no benefit to the local community. There is no consideration to the mental health of residents, who would have moved to the countryside in some instances to improve the mental health through the visibility of greenspace. The paper states there is a Solar farm to the North and another to the East, the south is locked in by 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 with 4km 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 would be delivered would only be viable for 13 years post 2050, what are the plans post this day. This shows very short term thinking.

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.

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

[Renewable and low carbon energy - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://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;”

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

Further notes and reference articles supporting the reasons to object.

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

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

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 on 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 its greener but its 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.lw.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 should consider purchasing this land and receive the £1000 per acre revenue per year.

We 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

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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 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 note 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.

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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.

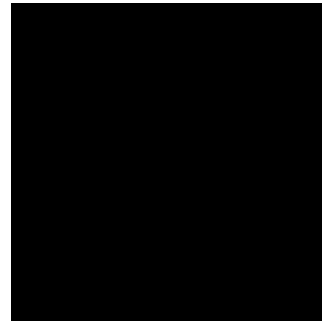
For many residents in Fillongley, 15 years will be a lifetime.

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.

Mr J Brown BA Dop TP MRTPI
Head Of Development Control Service
The Council House
South Street
Atherstone
Warwickshire



CV9 1DE

Reference : PAP/2023/0071

Objection/Rejection to plan

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 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 overfarming
- 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 prosoal will not look to conserve, enhance, or promote the landscape
- 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 as the distance from our homes is less than 350 meters.

- Our houses are not shown on the application plan as a ruse to show no dwellings near the site
- The site will have flood lights and a 3 Meter high fence around it (like a prison)

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 \(bregroup.com\)](#)

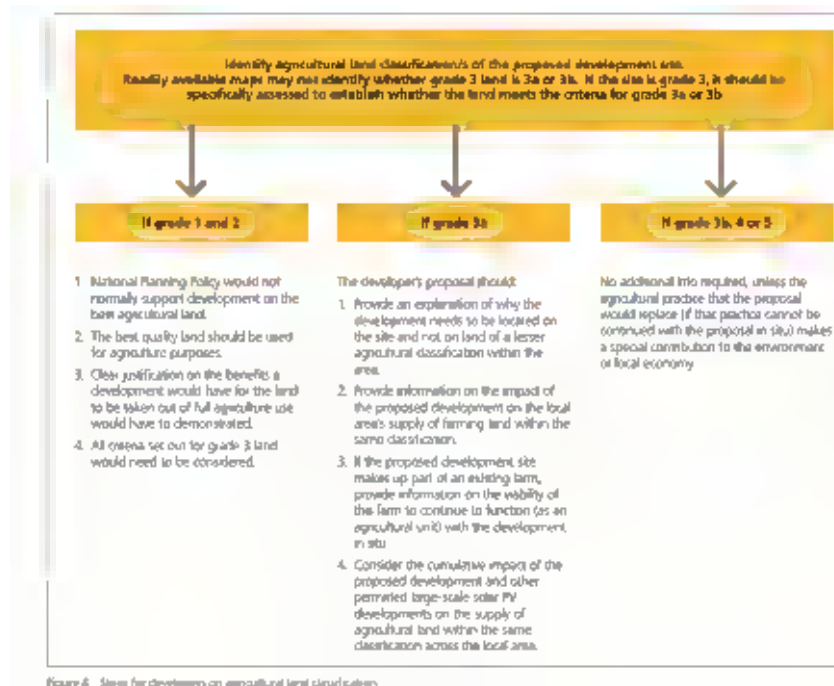


Figure 4: Steps for developers on agricultural land classification

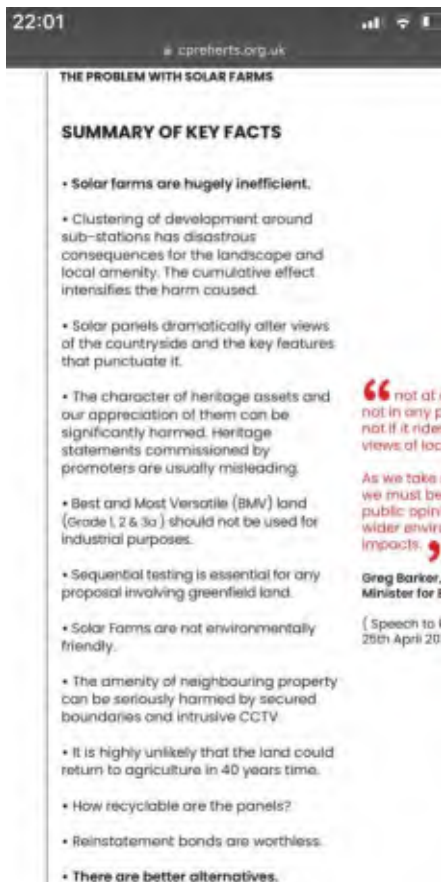
There is no justification in the provided proposal as to why grade 2 and grade 3a land is being proposed. This is particularly disturbing as the proposal mentions 2 other proposals with 4 km also built on green-built. No clear exceptional justification is provided.

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>



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 the 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 by 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 with 4km 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 would be delivered would only be viable for 13 years post 2050, what are the plans post this day. This shows very short term thinking.

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.

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

[Renewable and low carbon energy - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://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;”

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

Further notes and reference articles supporting the reasons to object.

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

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

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 on 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 its greener but its 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.lw.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 should consider purchasing this land and receive the £1000 per acre revenue per year.

We 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. 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.

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 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 note 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 capture al the other houses that 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 – Pl

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 Cart shed 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."

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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:


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From: nlpg@northwarks.gov.uk
Sent: 23 March 2023 07:32
To: planappconsult
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access

Caution: Warning external email

Application Reference No. : PAP/2023/0071 Site Address: Land 800 Metres South Of Park House Farm Meriden Road Fillongley Comments by: 


From:



Phone:



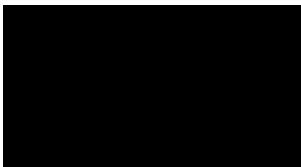
Submission: Objection
Comments:

Further to the objections raised , I have attached some more context. The other solar farms are within 4km. The combined total is over 100Mw. These applications are should not be permitted development. This seems like a loophole. We all need to think about our future, but it should be done with a genuine heart for the best of us as people and humans. Using green labels on projects to gain Money and financial gain is not ethical.

The recently bbc new article also stated there is a national veg shortage in the UK. We really need to balance our needs.

Thank you for taking your time to review this.

Kind Regards






23 March 2023

Jeff Brown
Head of Development Control Service
Council House
Atherstone
CV9 1DE

Dear Sir

Planning Application PAP/2023/0071
Construction of Solar Farm

I set out below the matters I believe should be taken into account in considering the above application

1. The proposal seeks to build the facility on Grade 2 & 3 land, which should be retained for agricultural use, to aid food production within the UK, and reduce the reliance on imported food.
2. There are already two solar farms within 4 km of the site, and there are no exceptional circumstances to justify an additional facility in the immediate area
3. There is far more suitable site at Daw Mill, an industrial site which has remained unused for many years
4. There is a potential hazard to traffic on the nearby M6 Motorway from glare from the panels, there does not appear to be satisfactory screening to prevent this
5. The proposal appears to be contrary to the local authority plan to reject industrialisation of green belt
6. There does not appear to be a clear plan for financing to return the site to its current state at the end of the projected life of the project
7. There is no benefit to the local community. The only beneficiaries are the farmer selling the site and the developer

In my view, taking these matters into account, the planning application should be rejected

Yours faithfully



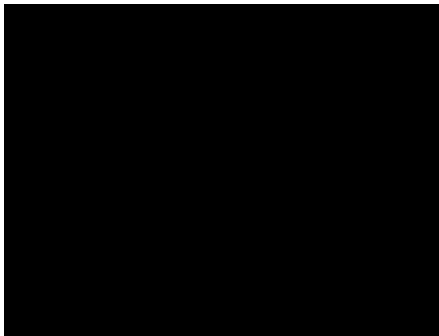
From: nlpg@northwarks.gov.uk
Sent: 25 March 2023 10:48
To: [planappconsult](#)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access

Categories: Netty

Caution: Warning external email

Application Reference No. : PAP/2023/0071

Site Address: Land 800 Metres South Of Park House Farm Meriden Road Fillongley



Submission: Neither

Comments: I am writing concerning the planning application which includes the removal of a 100-120 year-old apple tree. This tree is located 2meters inside the proposed boundary area on the north area of the proposed site entrance, and is regularly visited by deer and wild birds. It would be a great loss if this tree was removed, and I believe it should be retained. It can provide a wildlife haven.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 26 March 2023 17:01
To: [planappconsult](#)
Subject: Application ref: PAP/2023/0071

Caution: Warning external email

Dear Mr Brown,

Further to a "Notification of Application-Major Full Planning Application" dated 8th March 2023, I wish to submit my comments about this application (temporary Solar Farm, Meriden Road, Fillongley).

Below are my comments:

1. There is, as I understand it, no 11Kv distribution network to connect the solar farm for building the grid. It would be necessary to put in pylons, which would entail more work and having these structures present, thereby adding to the loss of the land/countryside.
2. There is a wildlife haven next door to the proposed site of the solar farm. The work required to render this land workable as well as then installing the solar panels (+ pylons) would mean the loss of local wildlife and their haven. This haven is a location adults and children visit.
3. There is a high pressure gas mains running directly to the site identified. This presents a hazard/danger to life (human & animal) if digging or building materials come in contact with it.
4. The proposed solar farm is on an industrial scale, and not a smaller, commercial one. Quite aside from the considerable upheaval to the land on which construction is proposed, there is also the loss of the area for wildlife and which residents (& visitors) currently enjoy.
5. The Daw mill colliery is nearby; this location could be used to build the solar farm with no loss of land which is used by wildlife or to the "cosmetic appearance" of the countryside.

If building this solar farm goes ahead, it will be yet another instance of a loss to "*England's pleasant pastures seen...In England's green and pleasant land*".

I should be obliged if you would acknowledge receipt of my email and its contents.

Thank you,

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 27 March 2023 16:20
To: planappconsult
Subject: Construction of a temporary solar farm, Meriden Road, Fillongley.
Application ref: PAP/2023/0071

Caution: Warning external email

Dear Sirs,

R:- Application Ref: PAP/2023/0071

Construction of a temporary solar farm, Fillongley. Applicant:- Enviromena Project Management UK Ltd

I wish to protest against this development on the following grounds:- 1. This massive solar farm will contribute to the flooding that Fillongley already has a problem with. The fields are sloping down towards the village and already boggy when it's rained. Unless full drainage is provided prior to construction of this solar farm it will increase flooding.

2. It will negatively impact on the diversity of the wildlife currently using fields in the area. There are many species of birds including birds of prey. Also foxes, stoats, badgers and deer are seen in the fields. The solar farm will discourage the wildlife and flora.

3. I believe that water running off solar panels is changed in its chemical elements and can be more toxic. Again a negative effect on flora and fauna.

4. This will be a massive solar farm that could have a negative effect on the economy of Fillongley businesses as it will discourage people from visiting the village.

I would have thought that the old Daw Mill Colliery site would be far more suitable as it is already standing idle and is a much flatter site.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

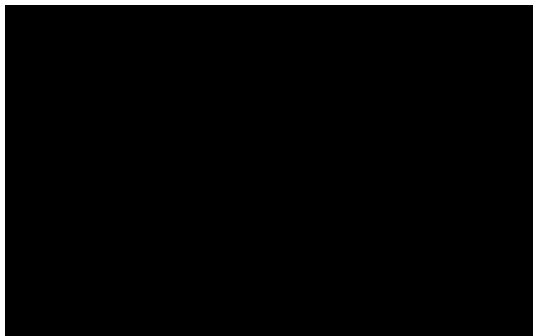
From: nlp@northwarks.gov.uk
Sent: 29 March 2023 13:02
To: [planappconsult](#)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access

Categories: Netty

Caution: Warning external email

Application Reference No. : PAP/2023/0071

Site Address: Land 800 Metres South Of Park House Farm Meriden Road Fillongley



Submission: Objection

Comments: During this time of crisis in food production in farming, I find it hard to accept the proposed loss of 'Best and Most Versatile (BMV) agricultural land', for which there is a general presumption against development (as described in the application). Britain needs to secure a home-grown supply of sustainable food, not using up huge areas of farmland to clad in glass to achieve other government objectives. In addition, Fillongley Neighbourhood plan specifically says that local farmland should be protected from industrialisation.

Preferred locations for solar panels should be industrial (roof/brown sites) not productive farmland sitting within greenbelt. There are many other options which should be used.

The impact of increased industrial traffic around the area during development will have a negative impact on the village. It is already dangerous to walk children to school along the footpaths, where lorries mount the kerb when they unexpectedly meet traffic in the centre of the village coming the other way. Houses already suffer damage from passing lorries unfamiliar with the area and unable to give way in time.

This village has simply too much at risk to allow a solar farm to be developed. The nature of it would change forever. The likelihood of restoration in 40 years is poor. Nearby, Daw Mill is supposed to be under a legal obligation to restore its site to greenbelt- however, the estate clearly has no intention of doing so, and this is setting a precedent for other developers looking to convert greenbelt in the same way. Greenbelt loss has been accelerated locally by HS2 and this additional loss would hit hard.

This area is a destination for many rambling and walking groups. Regular walkers who use this area at all times of the year will lose access and it simply will not feel the same, to visitors or to residents. The extensive beautiful scenery will be irrevocably altered, with disruption to wildlife and nature all around. Consideration should be given to the positive impacts on mental health of those who choose to walk in this area, where we can see the skylarks nesting, owls setting up new roosts and crops being produced. Walking along fenced/wired pathways alongside glass panels is simply not an alternative to being amongst greenery and crops.

We choose to live in an area surrounded by natural beauty with crops and sweeping landscape at every point travelling into the village, whilst forfeiting access to any reasonable public transport, lack of shops and

other facilities (either now closed or reduced).

When we asked the applicant at a parish meeting what benefits the development would bring to the village, the only reply was that it was for 'the greater good'. The application itself only suggests the village will benefit from 'wildflower planting'. I ask as a resident that alternative options are considered instead of causing such damage to the integrity of this special village.

The huge area proposed will be visible on every aspect of travel into Fillongley, destroying the integrity and charm of the rural location. In particular, if you drive from Meriden to Fillongley, the beautiful sweeping high hills on your right are lovely- covering them with solar panels will completely change the nature of the greenbelt landscape and the approach to the village, and simply cannot be screened from view.

This is a village which takes great pride in keeping its nature and charm- there are Summer fetes, Steam Trains, Morris Dancing, church festivals (attracting many outside visitors) and an army of litter pickers and supportive community groups. It sits aside the historic Forest of Arden landscape and this proposal is simply incongruous.

There is also a complex issue with flooding in the centre of Fillongley- the sweep of land to the village will inevitably carry excess rainfall straight into the village centre.

The impact of flash floods hitting large swathes of glass panels make any intention to provide 'flood mitigation' by the developer highly impractical. We know this from experience of previous years when intense rainfall has no chance of being absorbed into the land. Add glass panels into the mix and the runoff will be devastating.

The applicant representative appeared to have little understanding of the issues faced by previous flooding and quoted algorithms when we asked about their plans. The flash flooding and drainage issues in Fillongley need a greater degree of assessment and enquiry.

There are already two other solar farms approved locally. On the application it acknowledges that there will be cumulative harm as a result of another development: Given that all three sites are in the Green Belt it is acknowledged that there would be some loss of openness, and resultant encroachment into the countryside.

This extra development is one too many and I urge you to reject the application.

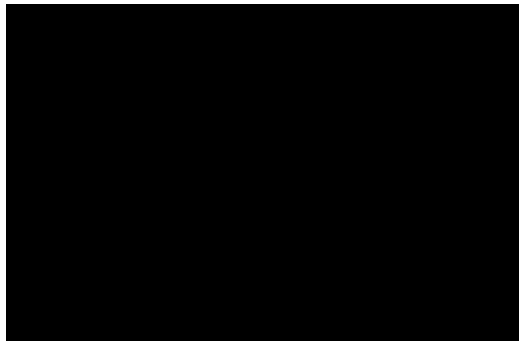
From: nlpg@northwarks.gov.uk
Sent: 29 March 2023 20:11
To: [planappconsult](#)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access

Categories: Netty

Caution: Warning external email

Application Reference No. : PAP/2023/0071

Site Address: Land 800 Metres South Of Park House Farm Meriden Road Fillongley



Submission: Objection

Comments: I object to the proposed solar farm, there has already been approval for two too many in the local area, damaging the environment and wildlife during construction, reducing agricultural land and causing concern for health and safety.

My daughter attends Bournebrook Primary School, in the event of thermal runaway and spontaneous combustion of the battery storage, extremely harmful gasses are released. It would be extremely negligent of the council to approve this solar farm so close to a school, putting so many young people's health and safety at risk.

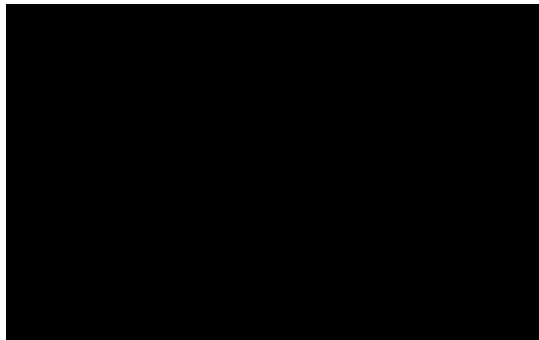
From: nlp@northwarks.gov.uk
Sent: 29 March 2023 17:40
To: [planappconsult](#)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access

Categories: Netty

Caution: Warning external email

Application Reference No. : PAP/2023/0071

Site Address: Land 800 Metres South Of Park House Farm Meriden Road Fillongley



Submission: Objection

Comments: I object to valuable farmland being used in this way

A beautiful part of the Countryside would be lost to the surrounding Villages

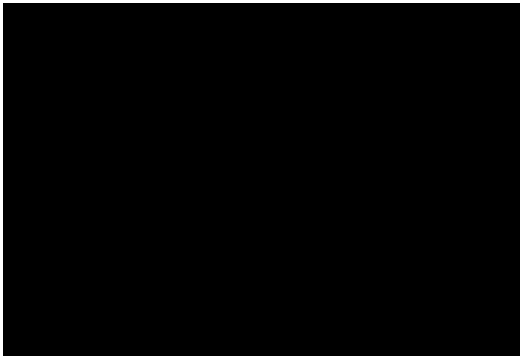
From: nlp@northwarks.gov.uk
Sent: 30 March 2023 09:11
To: [planappconsult](#)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access

Categories: Netty

Caution: Warning external email

Application Reference No. : PAP/2023/0071

Site Address: Land 800 Metres South Of Park House Farm Meriden Road Fillongley



Submission: Objection

Comments: Whilst I completely applaud the efforts to increase our green energy sources and therefore invest further into solar, I completely object to the use of green fields for this purpose.

The move towards more solar energy is positive and should be supported by comprehensive, long term plans of how we can make this a sustainable, positive investment that not only moves us towards greener energy but contributes towards our net zero targets also.

Due to the announcement of Investment Zones and 8 Freeports across the country we are seeing an abundance of gigantic warehouses and commercial sites popping up all over. These sites added to the existing warehouses and industrial sites we have provide an excellent and appropriate place for solar panels to be installed. Why not utilise infrastructure we have and are creating?

We focus on better insulation and greener utilities for new builds and this would be the commercial equivalent.

That said we also have plenty of brown field sites, particularly in our cities that can be better used for this purpose if only the money to clear them wasn't seen as a disadvantage.

Can we not incentivise developers to use long term thinking rather than short sighted, profit driven thinking?

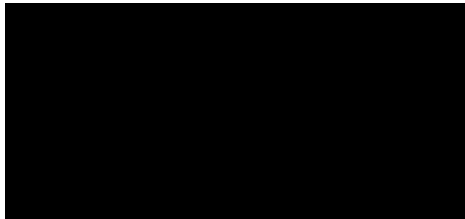
From: nlpg@northwarks.gov.uk
Sent: 30 March 2023 13:38
To: [planappconsult](#)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access

Categories: Netty

Caution: Warning external email

Application Reference No. : PAP/2023/0071

Site Address: Land 800 Metres South Of Park House Farm Meriden Road Fillongley



Phone:

Email:

Submission: Objection

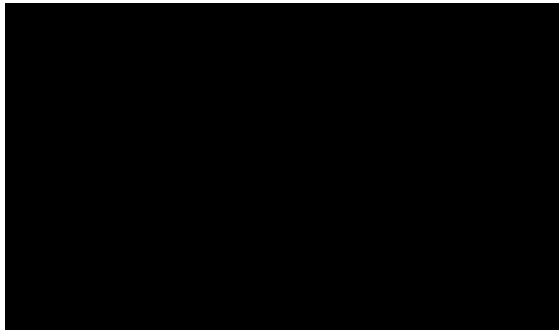
Comments: Loss of agricultural land much needed for secure food production. Increased industrial traffic.
Loss of recreational space.

From: nlpg@northwarks.gov.uk
Sent: 30 March 2023 14:13
To: [planappconsult](#)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access

Caution: Warning external email

Application Reference No. : PAP/2023/0071

Site Address: Land 800 Metres South Of Park House Farm Meriden Road Fillongley



Submission: Objection

Comments: I wish to strenuously object to the planning application PAP/2023/0071

My objections are detailed below.

¿ The land is ¿Best and Most Versatile (BMV); this land should be avoided unless less there is the most compelling evidence.

¿ The fact that BMV land happens to be available by a farmer does not equate to compelling evidence.

¿ The lack of poorer quality land within in the district does not equate to compelling evidence.

¿ The nearby Dawes Mills land would be a suitable location not BMV land.

¿ Has the sequential test been administered? This asks the question whether the use of agricultural land is necessary. It should demonstrate that no suitable brownfield land or non-agricultural land is available within a reasonable search area. I direct you to my

point above.

¿ The NPPF requires local planning authorities to take into account all the benefits of the BMV. If there is a need for significant development of agricultural land, planning authorities should seek to use poorer quality land in preference to that of higher quality. Again, I direct you to my previous point.

¿ Visual harm ¿ the NPPF expects local authorities to protect & enhance valued landscapes & sites of biodiversity & recognise the character & beauty of the open countryside.

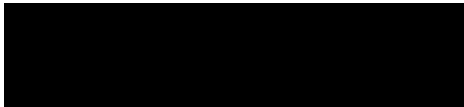
¿ This solar farm will be a carbuncle on the landscape.

¿ The applicant states the reason for the solar farm is for the ¿greater good.¿ I feel that this is a disingenuous statement and suggest it is for the greater good of his bank account.

2 Protecting the global environment should not mean vandalising the local environment

I urge you to reject this application on the above grounds but also, you, as Councillors, are the guardians of the countryside and should protect the meadows, green fields and open spaces from farmers/developers who just want to make a quick profit at the expense of the green belt. These pockets of fields are what makes the country quintessentially English and we are relying on you to halt the insidious destruction of the countryside as we know it.

Yours sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

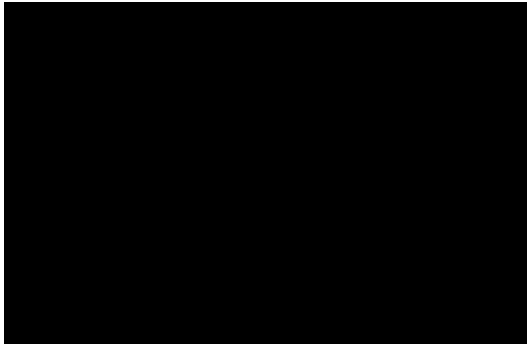
From: nlpg@northwarks.gov.uk
Sent: 30 March 2023 15:21
To: [planappconsult](#)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access

Categories: Netty

Caution: Warning external email

Application Reference No. : PAP/2023/0071

Site Address: Land 800 Metres South Of Park House Farm Meriden Road Fillongley



Submission: Objection

Comments: I

I am objecting on the following grounds. Visual impact on the local village and habitation. proximity to local housing. inappropriate development in the green belt POLICY LP1,LP3,LP3,LP15,The development is not temporary. Considerable risk to local habitation if a fire occurs, with regards noxious fumes. Danger to M6 north traffic from glare

From: nlpg@northwarks.gov.uk
Sent: 30 March 2023 15:49
To: [planappconsult](#)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access

Caution: Warning external email

Application Reference No. : PAP/2023/0071

Site Address: Land 800 Metres South Of Park House Farm Meriden Road Fillongley

Comments by: Ben Rowley

From:

Flat 3

Hurst RD

Bedworth

CV12 8AD

Phone:

Email: benrowleyliverpool@yahoo.com

Submission: Objection

Comments: I object to the development due to the following, I have spent all of my life in Fillongley and this will have a massive visual impact on our local housing and the village. This is greenbelt land and should remain so, the development is too close to both the M6 Motorway and our housing. Farms are for farming and should not be industrialised

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 31 March 2023 21:06
To: [planappconsult](#)
Subject: PAP/2023/0071 Solar Farm

Categories: Mandy

Caution: Warning external email

Dear Sir, thank you for your recent letter regarding the above application. Having looked at the proposals and attended Fillongley Parish Council meetings, I wish to register my objection to the construction of the solar farm.

My objection is based on the following:

- . 1. No direct benefit for the residents of Fillongley.
2. A 40 year installation is not temporary.
3. Potential environmental impacts, habitat loss, flooding, land cannot be used for anything other than power generation.
4. Solar power plants can give off electromagnetic radiation from the equipment used to store the energy generated.
- 5 No clear maintenance plan for the equipment if installed.

Hope these views are taken into account when you consider the application from Enviromena Project Management.

Yours,

[REDACTED]

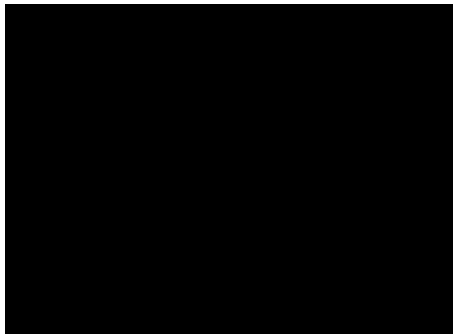
From: nlp@northwarks.gov.uk
Sent: 31 March 2023 18:57
To: [planappconsult](#)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access

Categories: Netty

Caution: Warning external email

Application Reference No. : PAP/2023/0071

Site Address: Land 800 Metres South Of Park House Farm Meriden Road Fillongley



Submission: Objection

Comments: I have grown up in this area and think it is important to object to this proposal.

A solar farm of this size will change the nature of the village and area massively.

I have many friends who come to cycle and walk round here, and the visual impact of such a big development will be very negative.

Fillongley has a long farming history, in an Ancient Arden landscape. We have explored the ancient monuments nearby.

The neighbourhood plan we contributed to said the rural setting and character would be protected. People fed back very strongly that it was really important to value the rural environment, and preserve the character and village atmosphere. The green belt is recognised to have a huge impact on Fillongley and everyone I know wants to protect it.

The application suggests the visual impact would not be great- with "glimpses" of the site. I know from cycling locally that from Green End Road, or Meriden Road, the views across beautiful countryside are not glimpses. Changing the view from rolling hills to masses of glass panels is terrible. It won't feel the same at all and I am sure it would put off the ramblers and cyclists who enjoy the lovely views at the moment.

There are lots of other options to install solar panels, it shouldn't take place on greenbelt, and especially not on such good farmland.

I worry that in my lifetime, Daw Mill closed and was supposed to be converted back to greenbelt. There's no sign that the Haworth Estate intend doing that at all- and that's what I worry will happen if this "temporary" change is approved. The loss of our natural environment is frightening.

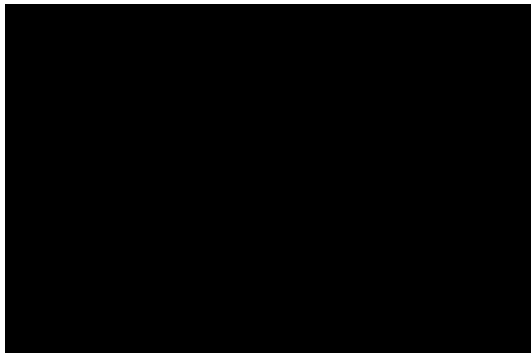
From: nlpg@northwarks.gov.uk
Sent: 31 March 2023 21:39
To: [planappconsult](#)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access

Categories: Netty

Caution: Warning external email

Application Reference No. : PAP/2023/0071

Site Address: Land 800 Metres South Of Park House Farm Meriden Road Fillongley



Submission: Objection

Comments: I object to the plan to build a solar farm in Fillongley.

It directly contravenes many of the points contained within the Fillongley Neighbourhood Plan, which contains the views of many of the village residents.

This plan should be respected as it is a fundamental part of the National Planning Policy Framework.

This framework specifies:

Core planning principles 17.

Within the overarching roles that the planning system ought to play, a set of core land-use planning principles should underpin both plan-making and decision-taking. These 12 principles are that planning should:

● be genuinely plan-led, empowering local people to shape their surroundings, with succinct local and neighbourhood plans setting out a positive vision for the future of the area.

● take account of the different roles and character of different areas, promoting the vitality of our main urban areas, protecting the Green Belts around them, recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside and supporting thriving rural communities within it.

This is key- the Neighbourhood plan is approved and clearly shows that development such as building solar panels on very visible, viable farmland, which is also greenbelt, is directly opposed to the communities wishes.

It would change the integrity of this historic landscape which is enjoyed by locals and visitors alike.

There are many other options viable for solar panels without impacting precious greenbelt and removing

productive farmland during this period of food production crisis.

In addition, large quantities of glass panels is also likely to contribute to a worsening of the flooding problems that the central village suffers from. There seems to be no specific mitigation measures to address this in the application. Unless you live in the village and see the impact of flash floods caused by running water coming off the hillsides, which overwhelms the drains, the impact cannot be properly understood.

This proposal is completely out of character for the area and will be highly detrimental to the historic nature of the landscape, which is so highly valued and enjoyed by its residents.

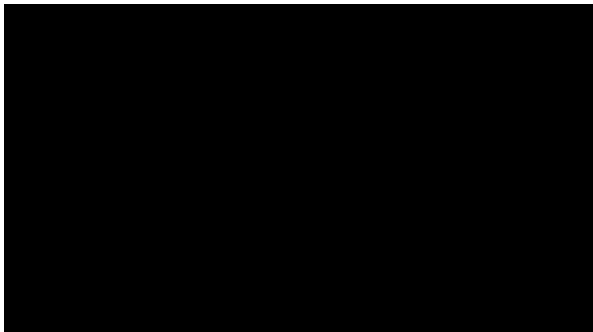
From: nlp@northwarks.gov.uk
Sent: 31 March 2023 22:06
To: [planappconsult](#)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access

Categories: Netty

Caution: Warning external email

Application Reference No. : PAP/2023/0071

Site Address: Land 800 Metres South Of Park House Farm Meriden Road Fillongley



Submission: Objection

Comments: I object to this planning application.

This proposed development will be unacceptably visible on many roads into the village, including from Green End Road and Meriden Road, where it will significantly alter the attractive outlook across rolling fields.

I cannot understand how the planning application considers that only "glimpses" of the site will be possible. The height of the hills makes screening impossible- if it were attempted, it would simply shut down all views in the area.

It will impact many more people than the application suggests- not just a select few residents or casual walkers. There are many people who specifically come to walk in this location as part of the Forest of Arden landscape, cycle on the North Arden Trail, and many residents who just enjoy the wonderful open landscape.

I am disgusted that greenbelt is being proposed for this development- it is entirely inappropriate for the character of the area. In addition, the farmland is noted to be of good quality, and it seems quite wrong to clad it in glass when the focus should be on food production.

Fillongley Neighbourhood plan quotes that there are several things to be considered in developments, such as:

Any commercial development should blend sympathetically with the landscape

Commercial development should not spoil any scenic aspect of, or distract from, the visual appearance of the village centre or countryside.

150 acres of solar panels does not fit within this requirement. Fillongley is an area rich in built and natural heritage and should be protected from inappropriate development like this.

The majority of villagers, many of whom have lived here for generations, wish to preserve the rural character of Fillongley, and protect its natural beauty.

There are two other local solar farms recently approved, and the cumulative harm by adding another so close could completely change the nature of this part of Warwickshire.

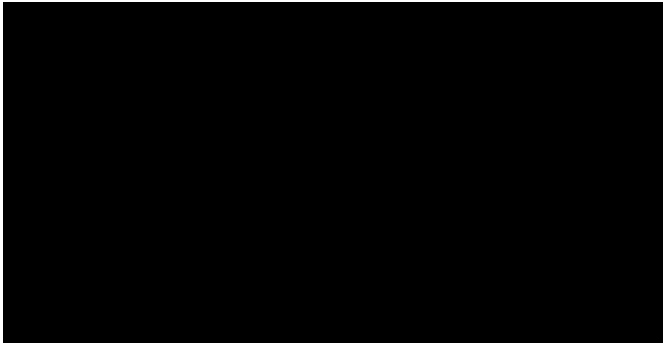
This application should be refused.

From: nlpg@northwarks.gov.uk
Sent: 02 April 2023 00:07
To: [planappconsult](#)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access

Caution: Warning external email

Application Reference No. : PAP/2023/0071

Site Address: Land 800 Metres South Of Park House Farm Meriden Road Fillongley



Submission: Objection

Comments: Dear Sir/Madam

I would like to state my objection and concerns relating to the solar farm application the land is arable and could have many uses the land area is vast and should remain in the green belt. The construction process of a solar farm is very intrusive and is bound to have damaging consequences to the land and wildlife. The panels are full of noxious chemicals and what happens to them when they are no longer viable. I understand the need for renewable energy but surely industrial sites would be a better option it is sad to think of green fields or crops growing in a field could be replaced with glass and metal instead.

Kind Regards



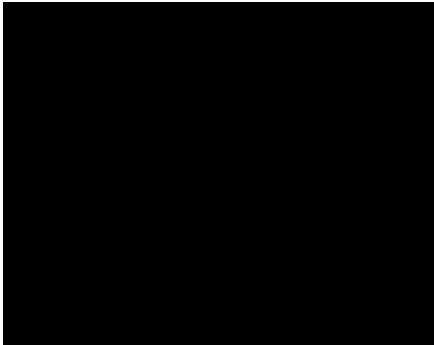
From: nlpg@northwarks.gov.uk
Sent: 02 April 2023 15:54
To: [planappconsult](#)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access

Categories: Netty

Caution: Warning external email

Application Reference No. : PAP/2023/0071

Site Address: Land 800 Metres South Of Park House Farm Meriden Road Fillongley



Submission: Objection

Comments: I walk regularly through the farmland with a group of others. The proposed plan WILL impact on the environment and character of the neighbourhood that uses it regularly.

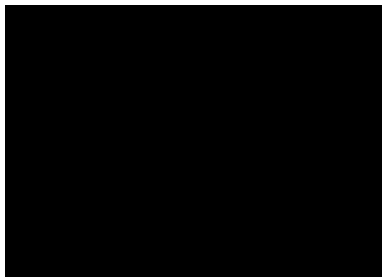
From: nlpg@northwarks.gov.uk
Sent: 04 April 2023 16:48
To: [planappconsult](#)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access

Categories: Mandy

Caution: Warning external email

Application Reference No. : PAP/2023/0071

Site Address: Land 800 Metres South Of Park House Farm Meriden Road Fillongley



Phone:

Email:

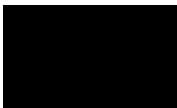
Submission: Objection

Comments: Hi,

From a Health and safety perspective and something that is not addresses in the application is the fire hazard.

it was only last summer that we witnessed large swathes of land being lost to bush fires. Solar panels are flammable. The Fillongley site, in addition to the Corley solar farm are huge sites in very close proximity to each other, a fire in this area would make it very difficult for residents to escape. As we will be enclosed by 3 solar farms.

Thanks



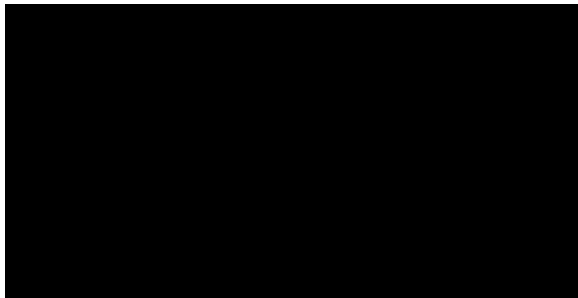
From: nlpg@northwarks.gov.uk
Sent: 04 April 2023 17:46
To: [planappconsult](#)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access

Categories: Mandy

Caution: Warning external email

Application Reference No. : PAP/2023/0071

Site Address: Land 800 Metres South Of Park House Farm Meriden Road Fillongley



Email:

Submission: Objection

Comments: I am writing to express my concerns regarding the planned solar farm on land located 800 metres south of Park House Farm on Meriden Road in Fillongley.

While I support the development of renewable energy sources, I believe that this particular solar farm would result in the loss of valuable farmland and have a significant impact on the local landscape.

The agricultural sector plays a critical role in the UK's economy and food security, and we must ensure that we balance our renewable energy targets with the preservation of farmland.

The proposed solar farm is quite substantial in size, and when compared to the village of Fillongley, it is clear that it would be a considerable development. Given the importance of agriculture to the local economy and the community's identity, Furthermore, the development would change the local landscape significantly. The fields that would be replaced by solar panels are currently home to wildlife and are an essential part of the natural habitat in the area. It is crucial that we take steps to preserve these areas for future generations.

While the planned solar farm is intended to be a temporary use of the land for 40 years, I believe this timeline is unreasonable, to use fertile agricultural land for such a long period. Plus the lifespan of a solar panel is around 25 years, which means that the solar farm may need to be replaced or upgraded before the end of its planned use.

The farmland in the area has been used for generations and provides an essential source of income for local

farmers. Once the solar panels are installed, it is unlikely that the land will be returned to agricultural use, which would have long-term consequences for the local community.

Therefore, I urge you to reconsider the proposed solar farm and explore alternative locations that do not involve the loss of valuable farmland. I also request that you take into account the impact that the development would have on the local landscape and the long-term implications of the temporary use of the land.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

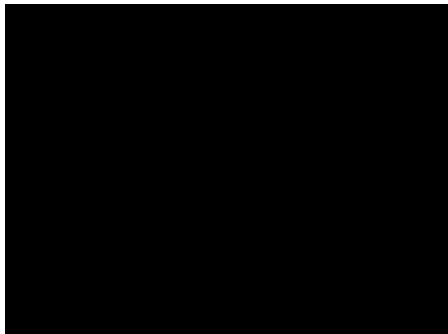
From: nlpg@northwarks.gov.uk
Sent: 05 April 2023 20:52
To: [planappconsult](#)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access

Categories: Netty

Caution: Warning external email

Application Reference No. : PAP/2023/0071

Site Address: Land 800 Metres South Of Park House Farm Meriden Road Fillongley



Submission: Objection

Comments: I have become aware of a plan to build solar panels across a large area of countryside in Fillongley. I drive along this route twice a day between Lichfield and Coventry. I do not approve of changing this landscape in this way. The land is greenbelt and every year is covered in crops so I don't understand how we can afford to lose this farmland. The worst thing is that Fillongley has a lovely characterful feel to it and this change would make a very negative impact. I believe such development is completely against the published neighbourhood plan. Villagers have always wanted to maintain the rural feeling of the village and especially protect the greenbelt which is so important. This is the wrong place

to put solar panels. Brown sites or commercial developments are a much more sustainable and environmentally positive choice.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 April 2023 19:39
To: [planappconsult](#)
Subject: PAP/2023/0071
Attachments: SolarFarm.docx

Categories: Mandy

Caution: Warning external email

Good Evening

I would like to outline my reasons for objection to the proposed Solar Farm in Fillongley.

Although I am very much in favour of green energy, unfortunately the benefits are far outweighed by the disadvantages in my opinion.

I'm incredibly passionate about our environment and natural world so have taken a very balanced view when assessing this.

Attached is a document outlining my primary reasons for objection.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

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:**

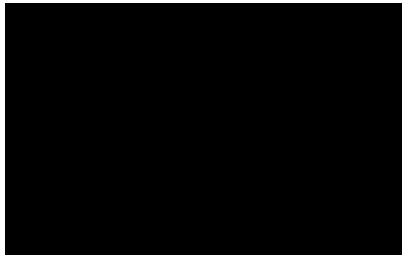
In the current economic climate we live in, there is a lot of concern around the cost of living. Some of the fields that have been proposed to be set aside for the Solar Farm are used for crops – we should be encouraging UK grown food, not taking away the land that provides it.

From: nlp@northwarks.gov.uk
Sent: 12 April 2023 14:58
To: [planappconsult](#)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access

Caution: Warning external email

Application Reference No. : PAP/2023/0071

Site Address: Land 800 Metres South Of Park House Farm Meriden Road Fillongley



Phone:

Email:

Submission: Objection

Comments: The land will be impacted and not returned to existing state. I offer the following:

published: 11 August 2020 doi: 10.3389/fenvs.2020.00140

Effects of Revegetation on Soil

Physical and Chemical Properties in

Solar Photovoltaic Infrastructure

Chong Seok Choi^{1*}, Alexander E. Cagle², Jordan Macknick³, Dellena E. Bloom¹, Joshua S. Caplan⁴ and Sujith Ravi¹

1 Department of Earth and Environmental Science, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA, United States, 2 Department of Land, Air and Water Resources, University of California, Davis, Davis, CA, United States, 3 National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Center for Strategic Energy Analysis, Golden, CO, United States, 4 Department of Architecture and Environmental Design, Temple University, Ambler, PA, United States

Seven years after revegetation, we found that carbon and nitrogen remained lower in the PV soil than in the reference soil and contained a greater fraction of coarse particles.

Conventional, utility-scale solar energy infrastructure modifies landscapes extensively through the site preparation process: native vegetation is removed, the ground surface is graded, and fill is added and compacted (Hernandez et al., 2014). Such modifications transform soil physical, chemical, and biological properties, thereby impacting moisture and nutrient dynamics, and thus soil's ability to support vegetation and perform a host of associated ecological processes

it is unclear if reintroducing native vegetation at existing solar PV sites can successfully mitigate changes to soil hydrology and ecology. In cases where natural land is leased for solar projects, leases typically span 20–30 years; during this time soil hydrological and ecological processes may be negatively impacted or made spatially heterogeneous. In addition to diminishing the landscape's ability to support ecosystem services during the solar facility's lifespan, these changes may leave legacy effects that persist long after the installation is removed.

Reduced C and N levels suggest that nutrient cycling had not fully reestablished 7 years after PV construction and, further, that the PV soil's ability to sequester carbon was diminished relative to the native soil.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 April 2023 15:30
To: [planappconsult](#)
Subject: Application PAP/2023/0071
Attachments: [REDACTED]

Caution: Warning external email

Hi,

I wanted to provide additional information to support my recent objection to this planning application.

Please find attached some guidance from DEFRA, which may be useful.

kind regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2023 3:20:50 PM
To: [REDACTED]com>
Subject: Planning - your email to Defra

You may wish to open this reply from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities as a Word document to retain correct formatting.



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities

**Department for Levelling Up, Housing and
Communities**

Planning Policy Division
3rd floor, Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF

Email: [REDACTED]@levellingup.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/dluhc

Our Ref: 26039552

13 April 2023

[REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 17 March to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, about solar farms on agricultural land. I have been asked to reply, as it is this Department which is responsible for the planning system.

[REDACTED]

I understand the importance of this matter. However, because of the Secretary of State's quasi-judicial role in the planning system, neither Ministers nor the Department would comment on a local planning matter. While central government sets planning policy for England through the National Planning Policy Framework, elected local authorities are responsible for planning their areas. Local Plans indicate how land should be used, and the type and location of future development. Each Plan is created in consultation with the local community, and submitted for rigorous independent examination by planning inspector. The examining inspector acts on behalf of the Secretary of State to make sure the Plan is sound and accords with national planning policy in the Framework.

For instance, the Framework makes clear that local authorities should have a strategy in place to promote energy from renewable and low carbon sources. Current planning guidance recognises that large-scale solar projects can have a negative impact on the rural environment, particularly on undulating landscapes. This has to be taken into account when project applications are being considered. However, each case is considered on its own facts and circumstances. Solar projects can be an important way for farmers to increase revenue from land less suited to higher value crops, and agricultural practice can sometimes co-exist with solar and even improve biodiversity on the land. Many solar projects, for example, are designed with raised panels. Best practice guidance from the Buildings and Research Establishment, with participation from the National Farmers' Union and others, highlights the use of solar farm land for sheep or poultry grazing or beekeeping.

At the same time, the Framework expects local authorities to protect and enhance valued landscapes and biodiversity, and recognise the character and beauty of the countryside. Strong protections are in place for Green Belt and other designated rural land. Inappropriate development – including most forms of new building - should not be approved in Green Belt unless in very special circumstances, as judged by the local authority. The Framework also makes clear that local planning policies and decisions should also recognise the benefits of the best and most versatile farmland. If development on farmland is unavoidable, it should go on poorer land. As a safeguard, a local authority has by law to consult Natural England before granting planning permission for non-agricultural development not in accord with the Local Plan which would involve the loss of 20 hectares of grades 1, 2 or 3a farmland, or the loss of less

than 20 hectares of such land in circumstances likely to lead to a further loss of 20 or more hectares of farmland.

We are working across government on plans for nature recovery, to make Green Belt and other rural land greener around our towns and cities. The Environment Act 2021 requires Local Nature Recovery Strategies to be prepared in each area designated by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for that purpose. Moreover, biodiversity net gain will become mandatory in November 2023 for most planning applications, making it a condition of consent that each development delivers improvements of 10 per cent or more for biodiversity compared to the site's biodiversity value before development. Solar project developers should therefore design their schemes to secure biodiversity net gain.

Of course, the Framework strongly encourages regeneration and re-use of brownfield land, especially for housing. However, brownfield sites vary greatly; it is for local authorities, in consultation with local people, to decide if land is suitable to redevelop. To reduce the pressure to consider greenfield sites, Government is investing significant amounts in regenerating brownfield, including the £550 million Brownfield Housing Fund and the £180 million Brownfield Land Release Fund 2. The Department will also be launching a review to consider further measures that would prioritise re-use of brownfield land; details will be announced in due course. Each local authority is already required by law to publish a register of local brownfield land suitable for housing.

I should add that we are carefully analysing the responses to our recent consultation on the National Planning Policy Framework. Any changes in policy will be confirmed when the Framework is updated later in 2023. Until that time, current national policy set out in the 2021 Framework remains in force, and Local Plans should continue to be prepared in line with its policies. It should be understood, meanwhile, that the proposals in that consultation (which closed on 2 March 2023) are not currently Government policy, and may be subject to change.

Thank you again for writing. I hope this information is helpful, and that you have been making full use of any consultation opportunities arising locally to ensure that the local authority is aware of your concerns.

Yours sincerely


Planning policy adviser



21st April 2023

North Warwickshire Borough Council
Planning Department
South Street
Atherstone
CV9 1DE

Dear Sirs

Proposed Solar Panel Industrial Estate, Fillongley

I wish to OBJECT in the strongest terms to this planning application.

The Flooding problems that Fillongley Village suffers from rainwater runoff from the M6 will be exacerbated. There is no justification for the siting of any solar panel industrial estate, nor will there be a benefit to the residents, so planning consent should be rejected. The degradation of the solar panels will cause disposal problems in a very short time. The land will need a great deal of working to bring it upto usable agriculture condition at the end of term of consent. It is unlikely that this clause in the consent will be adhered to. Refer to Daw Mill.

A more sustainable project would be to plant 150 acres of fast-growing trees which could be harvested in rotation and replanted which will provide local forestry employment, provide fuel by means of kiln dried wood and pellets which are all currently imported, causing sea pollution and heavy goods vehicle air pollution. Whilst in a growing situation, the trees would carbon capture from the motorway, reduce noise pollution, provide a public space for residents and natural habitat for wildlife. I appreciate this land is privately owned but a way forward would be to set up a Trust to purchase this land, as the owner is obviously willing to sell.

We should be fighting Enviromena with all means available and not asking them what they are going to do, we should be telling them what they should be doing. I attended Fillongley Parish Council meeting on the 20th April and listening to Enviromenas comments, they are just salesmen determined to have their own way, they told us nothing useful or productive, just empty lip service to have their own way.. We have plenty of evidence of this in this area, to name HS2 and Daw Mill as two examples. The terminology of Solar Farm is to give the project a cuddly feeling and being an

acceptable project of cheap electricity so no one will try any further and accept it as done deal. I am young enough/old enough to remember the Green Belt Act which was sacrosanct where planning consent was to be concerned. Over the years Green Belt land has been chipped away to suit political whims.

Solar Panel Industrial Estates are taking up farming/food production land which we desperately need to provide for all our citizens instead of being at the mercy of international political relations. By being more independent we will not be taking other country's food which they will need for their own citizens. We will be a last consideration in this position.

Providing Solar Panels for each household and using the roof spaces on large industrial buildings, including supermarket roofs, which are already in existence will provide acres and acres of space for solar panel siting and will not impact on land usage. The UK is a small island and land is at a premium. We cannot allow any more to be misused to the benefit of the money men. Most electricity and other utilities are not owned and controlled by UK companies, and we are at the mercy other country's economic policies. We have taken millions of people into this country over the last ten years and having done so we have an obligation to provide for them. Thousands of acres of greenbelt/farming land have been used to provide housing for them, we cannot allow any more to be lost. The project will not provide sustainable long-term employment for local people, therefore not adding to the local economy and tax take for local and central government.

I trust that you will be able to take my OBJECTION with the seriousness that it is presented and reject this application and block any further applications for such projects. It is up to you to make a stand on this issue by all means available to you and new ones brought onto the Planning Regulations of this area to prevent further atrocities.

Yours faithfully

A large black rectangular box redacting the signature of the sender.

From: nlpg@northwarks.gov.uk
Sent: 25 April 2023 17:09
To: [planappconsult](#)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access

Categories: Netty

Caution: Warning external email

Application Reference No. : PAP/2023/0071

Site Address: Land 800 Metres South Of Park House Farm Meriden Road Fillongley



Phone:

Email:

Submission: Objection

Comments: As I said on the previous application there is a 120 year old apple tree situated on the proposed entrance gate/tarmac area. This apple tree is a descendant from a historic wyken Pippin apple.

This 120 year old apple tree is frequently visited by deer and wildlife at the end of the summertime when nutrients is much needed to get the wildlife through the winter.

By removing this very old apple tree obviously it's going to impact the wildlife in the area significantly

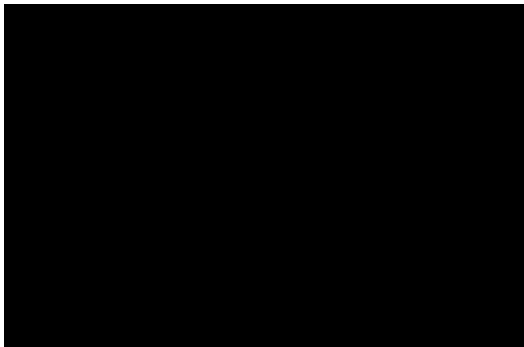
From: nlpg@northwarks.gov.uk
Sent: 26 April 2023 09:03
To: [planappconsult](#)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access

Categories: Netty

Caution: Warning external email

Application Reference No. : PAP/2023/0071

Site Address: Land 800 Metres South Of Park House Farm Meriden Road Fillongley



Submission: Objection

Comments: I strongly object there is no guarantee of returning to green belt this will become brown field and built on when presently all new houses e.g. A45 cannot be sold builder offering a thousand pound a month if you purchase. What will happen to the PANELS when obsolete no one is proving that information more for LAND FILL!!!!!!

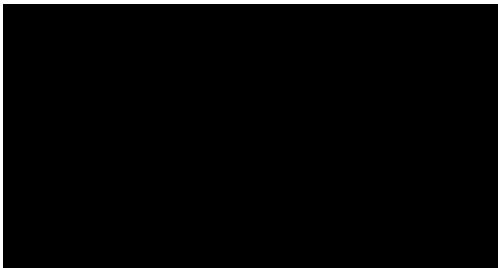
From: nlpg@northwarks.gov.uk
Sent: 26 April 2023 20:52
To: [planappconsult](#)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access

Categories: Emma

Caution: Warning external email

Application Reference No. : PAP/2023/0071

Site Address: Land 800 Metres South Of Park House Farm Meriden Road Fillongley



Phone:

Email:

Submission: Objection

Comments: 1) Adjacent to M6 motorway - safety hazard - distraction of site and visual glare endangering drivers. ALL solar panels are reflective

2) B4102 road has recently been reopened following 12 months closure, during which time chaos ensued on rural lanes with diverted traffic - a further '7 months' disruption is unacceptable

3) B4102 is notorious for accidents and fatalities. Visual distractions to drivers, causing loss of concentration and accidents. No amount of landscaping will stop this happening. The viability of the screening is very concerning in this locality

4) Enviromena is essentially a Wealth Management Company and can afford to invest in non-green belt sites. This should be their focus

5) No mention of energy being produced for local homes or subsequent reduction of energy bills for local residents, due to locally sourced energy because this is not what Enviromena is about

6) Impact on our homes, dramatic visual change from green belt to solar farm and inevitable consequence of financial decline of our house values due to solar farm in locality

7) Proposal would condemn 150 acres of green belt land to death for 40 years at least - this is not environmentally friendly. No guarantee of returning to agriculture in 40 years - impossible to predict - regardless this cannot compensate for loss of land to agriculture for 40 years

8) The proposed site will change the character of the area, spoil views of what is now a beautiful part of the countryside. Dramatically affecting the landscape, including natural and bio diverse habitats, challenging the abundance of animals and wildlife that inhabit the land

9) Enviromena do not really want public responses, evident by them sending out letters giving less than a week to respond

10) This land is currently delivering important environmental outcomes including carbon sequestration and

many other biodiversity and ecosystem services. A solar farm should not be allowed to destroy this hugely important land use and irreplaceable environmental contribution

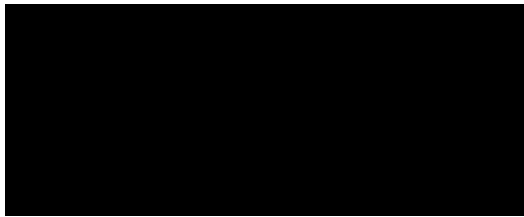
From: nlpg@northwarks.gov.uk
Sent: 26 April 2023 21:24
To: [planappconsult](#)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access

Categories: Emma

Caution: Warning external email

Application Reference No. : PAP/2023/0071

Site Address: Land 800 Metres South Of Park House Farm Meriden Road Fillongley



Phone:

Email:

Submission: Objection

Comments: My home looks out directly at this land, which is currently agricultural land in rural Warwickshire. I do not want this to change. Firstly from a farming and environmental perspective and secondly it will dramatically alter and affect my view and devalue my home. Green energy has to become more efficient and be located in suitable brownfield sites that do not destroy further the vital but struggling farming institution we all need to survive. Green energy is an anomaly in itself, it is not efficient and cannot be stored. Both solar panels and wind turbines are invariably turned off for these very reasons, giving way to nuclear and coal fired energy sources. The national grid only takes 3/4% of its energy from solar farms, there is not enough sun in this country to provide consistent amounts of energy and when there is sunshine, the energy produced, cannot be stored so the panels are turned off. Solar farms are even less efficient and produce less energy for the national grid than wind farms. The only local application for a wind farm was turned down. It would not have been as obtrusive, environmentally damaging and ineffective than this proposed solar farm. Farming can at least continue around wind turbines. A solar farm decommissions all affected land and it is lost from farming indefinitely, if not forever. Residents in Corley, Green End and Coventry Road will all overlook this proposed solar farm, what a blow to rural Warwickshire, the local area and British Farming. I strongly object

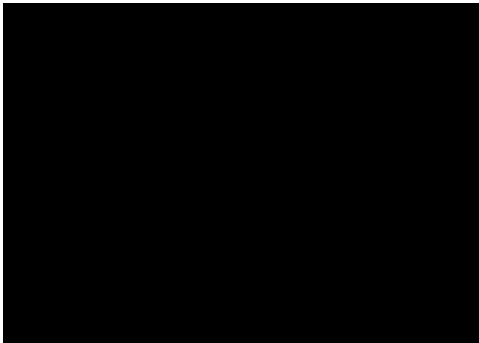
From: nlpg@northwarks.gov.uk
Sent: 01 May 2023 14:36
To: [planappconsult](#)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access

Categories: Netty

Caution: Warning external email

Application Reference No. : PAP/2023/0071

Site Address: Land 800 Metres South Of Park House Farm Meriden Road Fillongley



Submission: Support

Comments: support 100%. Low level; low noise; reduced emissions

From: nlpg@northwarks.gov.uk
Sent: 02 May 2023 15:20
To: [planappconsult](#)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access

Categories: Netty

Caution: Warning external email

Application Reference No. : PAP/2023/0071

Site Address: Land 800 Metres South Of Park House Farm Meriden Road Fillongley



Coleshill

Phone:

Email:

Submission: Objection

Comments: As a neighbouring farmer, local to this area, I strongly object to this application. The siting of this application is totally in the wrong location. Proposing to fill over 100 acres of beautiful countryside and valuable farm land with solar panels is a big mistake. That together with proposing that these panels are located next to M6 motorway is simply ridiculous. It would create a huge danger, dazelling and distracting traffic. Wind turbines are not as harmful to the landscape, farming or the environment. This application should be refused. It is totally down to one person's habitual greed, someone who does not even live close to this area. Someone who buys land in areas away from their home, for speculation purposes, wanting to change the land use simply for greed and with absolutely no regard for farming. It is the local people who live nearby who would have to have to look this monstrosity. It also opens the gate for future mutilation of the countryside. This application will be appealed if successful.

RECEIVED

- 3 MAY 2023

North Warwickshire
Borough Council

2nd May 2023

To Mr Jeff Brown BA Dip TP MRTPI
Head of Development Control Service
The Council House, South Street,
Atherstone
Warwickshire CV9 1DE

Dear Sir,

We strongly urge you to reject the
requested planning permission to allow the
construction of a Solar Farm on land near
Park House Farm, Fillongley

This is green belt land and we feel it
should remain green belt land for the protection of
wild life and the benefits to the minds and bodies
of human beings

The countryside is at present being
destroyed to make way for High Speed Rail.
Supposed to save less than half an hour on a
trip to London. It would take longer than half
an hour for most people to journey to board the
train at one of the few boarding stations

As this railway line is going ahead much
to the disgust of many people why not use

the embankments along side the track to install solar panels. Miles of solar panels using already damaged countryside without having to damage other green belt land by erecting elsewhere?

We beg you to save the countryside for future generations - once it's gone it's gone. When it is no longer classed as 'green belt' it is unlikely to return as such no matter what promises are made right now

Yours faithfully



From: Jeff Brown
Sent: 09 May 2023 09:07
To: planappconsult
Subject: FW: Solar Farm

Representation response

Jeff

-----Original Message-----

To: Jeff Brown <JeffBrown@NorthWarks.gov.uk>
Subject: Solar Farm

Caution: Warning external email

Dear Mr Jeff Brown

Ref: PAP/2023/0071

After a little research on Solar Farms, please find our comments below

The Solar Farm will have visual impact on the countryside and will be very unsightly. We feel it will be damaging to the environment, significant habitat degradation, losing the wildlife, insects and birds. Electromagnetic radiation causing health issues, also decreasing the value of nearby properties. Looking on the bright side it would generate constant and reliable energy.

We do not oppose renewable energy sources, but preferably in an area where it will have less of an impact

Taking all the points into consideration, on this occasion, we feel the negatives outweigh the positives.

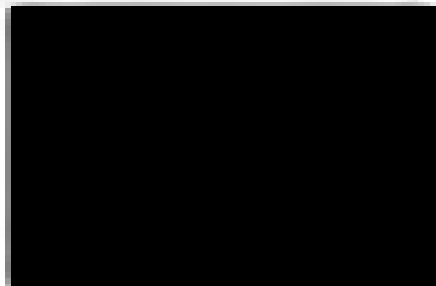
So we wish to reject the application for the construction of a temporary Solar Farm

Kind Regards

Application

Sent from my iPad

2023/0071



DEAR Mr Brown, RE SOLAR FARM PAP2023/0071

IT WOULD BE A CRIMINAL, TO DESTROY PRISTINE "GREEN BELT", FOR A TRICKLE OF ELECTRIC, WHEN CHINA ALONE IS OPENING 168 NEW POWER PLANTS, FUELED BY COAL IN NEXT FEW YEARS.

IF WE NEED A SOLAR FARM, WHY NOT USE DRAW MILE SITE. (BROWN)?

Yours Sincerely

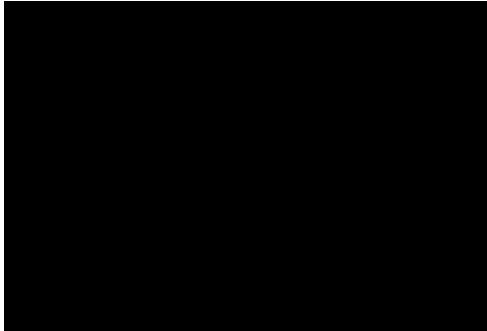


From: nlpg@northwarks.gov.uk
Sent: 14 May 2023 17:48
To: [planappconsult](#)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access

Caution: Warning external email

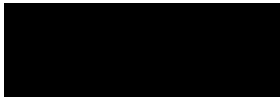
Application Reference No. : PAP/2023/0071

Site Address: Land 800 Metres South Of Park House Farm Meriden Road Fillongley



Submission: Objection

Comments: I strongly object to this application. It is totally unacceptable to build solar farms on precious green belt land. There are many brown belt sites available in the area which could be used for this solar farm. In addition, this massive development would further increase the risk of flooding in Fillongley village. (Flooding is already a very serious issue for the village). I would be happy to discuss.





Mr Jeff Brown
The Council House
South St., Atherstone
Warwickshire CV9 1DE

Dear Mr Brown

PAP/2023/0071

Having carefully read the proposed development of a solar farm on Meriden Road, Fillongley, I wish to object on the following grounds:

Green Belt and Rural Environment

This proposal creates an industrialisation of our rural environment and undermines the Council's policy of protecting the Green Belt. In principle, we should be looking at renewable, alternative sources of energy, but the sheer size and scale of the 'farm' is disproportionate to the rural environment. It is misleading and untrue, to declare that the earth is unsuitable for agriculture, local farmers are familiar with the grade of soil and disagree with the applicants' assertion that it is unsuitable for growing crops.

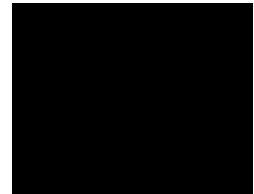
In the current economic climate, the land should be utilised for food production and builders and developers encouraged to use newly constructed homes and businesses with solar energy to replicate other countries policies of adding solar panels to roofs, etc. It would be more acceptable if unused brown field sites be sourced for these plans (Daw Mill for example) and developed accordingly.

Our village has a cherished heritage, containing a number of listed buildings within a conservation area and I wish to express concern that it will be dwarfed by the size of the solar farm making it visible to many properties from near neighbours to residents who live on Meriden Road, Coventry Road and beyond, encompassing Corley residents too. The proposal therefore is viewed as inappropriate development and would be harmful to the openness of the Green Belt.

The Applicant has advised residents that this is a 'temporary' construction – which was quoted as '40 years'. The same condition was applied to Daw Mill site, but was never honoured and remains derelict and unused.

Biodiversity

It has been recorded that the solar panels can be detrimental to wildlife: covering bar foraging bats areas, preventing movement of larger animals and restricting wildlife corridors and we are concerned that there will be removal of trees and hedgerows, all essential for nature conservation.



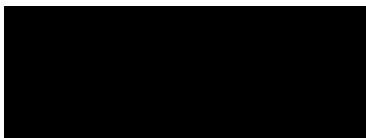
Flooding

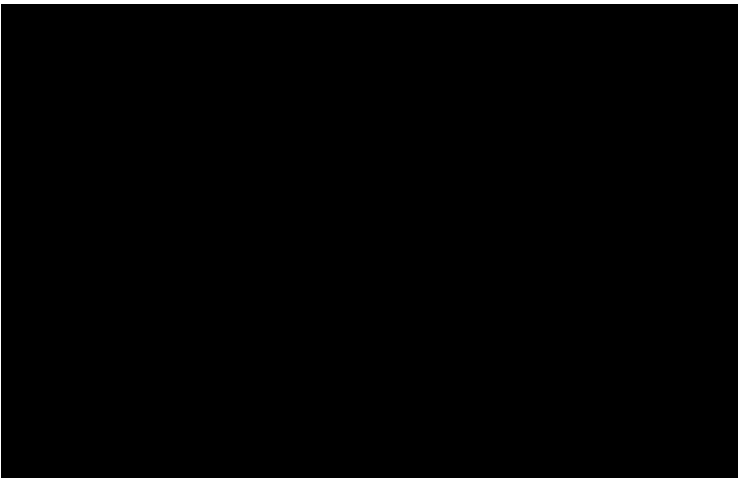
Several properties have been subject to flooding in the past and have formed a Flood Group to focus on the causes and consequences of these. The aggravation of the flooding has been recorded as significant run off from the motorway and, as the plan appears to run over the passage of water to the village, it will have the capacity to worsen the situation.

Our Neighbourhood Plan seeks to minimise these risks, protect our Green Belt area and maintain our rural and natural environment.

Therefore, I would respectfully request the North Warwickshire Borough Council refuses this application.

Yours sincerely





From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18 May 2023 08:59
To: [planappconsult](#)
Subject: FW: Solar farm

Categories: Emma

Caution: Warning external email

Dear Mr Brown,

With reference to the application for the solar farm Meriden Road, Fillongley. I noticed on your report that only two farm houses would be affected by this large Solar farm.

I also believe that on the application by Enviromena that they did not use an up to date area plan showing our houses at Far Parks.

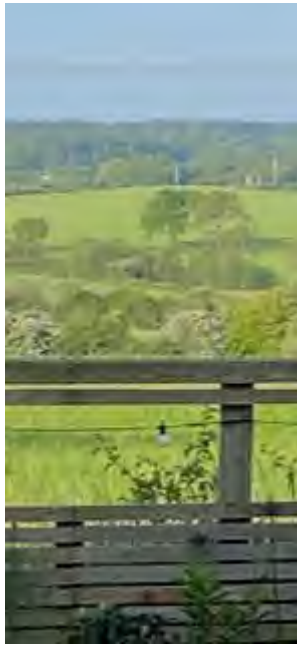
Our own house is less than 500Mt from the fields that it is proposed to put the Solar farm with it's 86000 panels and inverters.(please see picture) This is taken from our lounge window.

I know that views don't come into it but the noise from the buzzing of the inverters would not be acceptable and would affect our mental wellbeing.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



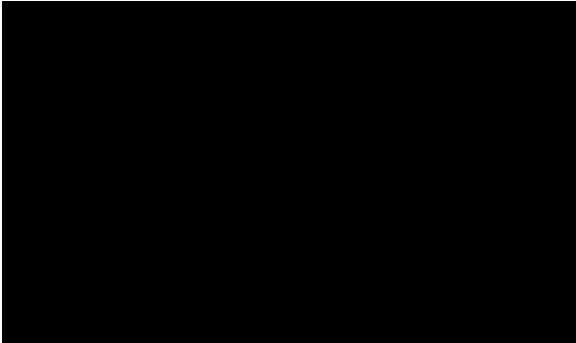
Sent from my iPhone

From: nlpg@northwarks.gov.uk
Sent: 18 May 2023 19:46
To: [planappconsult](#)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access

Caution: Warning external email

Application Reference No. : PAP/2023/0071

Site Address: Land 800 Metres South Of Park House Farm Meriden Road Fillongley



Submission: 18 May 2023

Comments: Please note our properties in Far Parks are not represented on the planning application. Also the solar generation site is in full view of our houses and those of our neighbours on both sides of the Coventry Rd. The site will run alongside the Coventry Way Footpath and impinge on the enjoyment of numerous walkers and ramblers. Please be aware of the omissions.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 May 2023 20:52
To: [planappconsult](#)
Subject: Solar farm Fillongley
Attachments: Image.jpeg; Image.jpeg

Categories: Mandy

Caution: Warning external email

Dear Mr Brown,

With reference to the application for the solar farm Meriden Road, Fillongley. We noticed on the report that only two farm houses would be affected by this large Solar farm.

I also believe that on the application by Enviromena that they did not use an up to date area plan showing our houses at Far Parks.

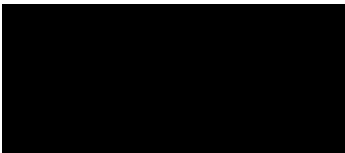
Our own house is less than 500Mt from the fields that it is proposed to put the Solar farm with it's 86000 panels and inverters.(please see picture) This is taken from our kitchen window.

If you are interested I can share details of the noise impact made from the inverters which would impact out health both day and night due to the proximity to our home. We have 2 young children and we do not wish there to be a negative impact on thwir health.

I know that views don't come into it but the noise from the buzzing of the inverters would not be acceptable and would affect our mental wellbeing.

You will notice that the land is also actively Farmed, the land is being used for agriculture.

Kind Regards



Sent from my iPhone



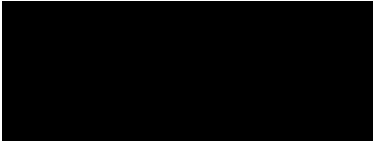


From: [REDACTED]
Sent: [REDACTED]
Subject: [REDACTED]; [planappconsult](#)
Safe distance PAP 2023/0071

Caution: Warning external email

<https://climatecafes.org/what-is-a-safe-distance-to-live-from-a-solar-farm/>

[REDACTED] hope you are well. See link although it's most probably too late now.





What Is A Safe Distance To Live From A Solar Farm?



January 18, 2023

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Got it!





When deciding where to live, one of the most important factors to consider is safety.

While a solar farm could potentially pose a health hazard or other risks, so it's important to know the risks associated with living near a solar farm.

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Bhadla Solar Park, the largest solar farm in the world:

14,000 acres located in Rajasthan, India

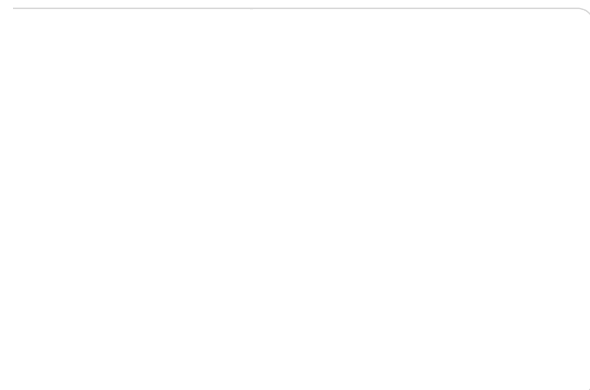
▶ Ashok Gehlot led Rajasthan Government laid the foundation stone on 21 August 2013



ucing an impressive 2,245 MW of power

gh to power 2 million+ homes

ran



May 21, 2023



Full conversation on Twitter

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In this blog post, we'll explore what is the safe distance to live from a solar farm, factors to consider, and the potential health hazards and other risks.

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Safe Distance To Live From A Solar Farm?


A large area of land covered with solar panels that are used to collect and convert sunlight into

Solar farms are becoming more and more popular because they provide clean, renewable energy that can help us reduce our carbon footprint.

But when considering where to live, it's important to know what is the safe distance to live from a solar farm.

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wer plant in Colombia co! The solar park is made up of around 20
panels installed on an innovative structure: thanks to cutting-edge technology, it allow
photovoltaic modules to follow the movement of the sun 🌞 with the aim of maximiz
energy production ⚡

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#Colombia #green #solar #solarpower #naturalpartnership #solarpanels #solarfarm #
#landscape #solarenergy #light #sky #renewables #egp #enelgreenpower #instapowe
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#climatechange

The distance you can safely live from a solar farm depends on its size and the type of solar panels used.

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e solar farm and at least 200 meters away from a



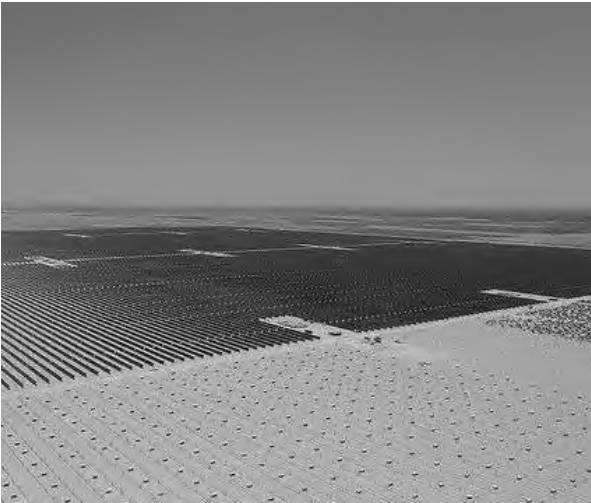
For monocrystalline solar farms, it is recommended to keep at least 1000 meters away, while for polycrystalline solar farms, it is recommended to keep at least 500 meters away.

See also [Do Solar Farms Make Noise?](#)

☒ If you are planning to build a new home near a solar farm, it is important to keep in mind that the solar farm should be at least 3 kilometers away from any residential areas.

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Do you know what the Sustainable Worksite model is? It's a mindset we adopt in all of our plants' construction phase, minimizing environmental impact and controlling key factors like energy use, waste recycling and water consumption, from the very first phase of each project. Our #Villanueva solar plant in Mexico is the perfect example of this incredible #green thinking 🌱🌿

...

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#Mexico #Villanueva #solar #solarpower #naturalpartnership #solarpanels #solarfarm #landscape #solarenergy #light #sky #renewables #egp #enelgreenpower #instapower #energy #alternatives #sustainable #nature #gogreen #solarcity #photovoltaic #technology #climatechange

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When considering solar farms, there are a number of factors to consider.

Let's take a look at each of these factors in more detail.

1. Type of Solar Technology Used

The type of solar technology used in a solar farm can have an impact on the safety distance required.



Some solar technologies, such as concentrated photovoltaics (CPV), use lenses or mirrors to focus sunlight onto photovoltaic cells.

These technologies have the potential to generate high levels of heat and produce more intense levels of solar radiation than other types of solar technologies.

Therefore, living too close to a CPV solar farm could pose a greater risk than living close to other types of solar farms.

2. Size of the Solar Farm

The size of the solar farm is also an important factor to consider when determining a safe distance to live from a solar farm.

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Generally speaking, the larger the solar farm, the larger the area where emissions and radiation could potentially be a hazard.

Before figuring out how close you can live to a solar farm, it is important to know how big it is.




3. Local Climate

The local climate can also have an impact on the safety distance required.

For example, in areas with high temperatures, solar panels can become hotter and emit more radiation.

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ould pose a greater risk than living close to a solar farm



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horizon, our headquarters in Poland is eagerly awaiting the excitement

We are preparing to launch our newest PV farm soon.

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4. Local Terrain

The local terrain can have an impact on the safety distance required as well.

See also **Can A Solar Farm Make Money?**

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pose a greater risk than living close to a solar farm on

ation and other emissions.





Electromagnetic Interference

Electromagnetic interference (EMI) is also an important factor to consider when determining a site's suitability for a solar farm.

Solar farms produce a lot of electromagnetic radiation, and this radiation can interfere with the functioning of electronic devices.

Proximity to a solar farm could cause electronic devices to not work properly.

Potential Health Hazards And Other Risks

If solar farms are in close proximity to homes and other buildings, there are potential health risks that must be considered during the siting and construction process.

Some of these potential health hazards include:

Exposure to Light

Exposure to light from solar farms can be a health hazard.

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Solar panels, which can be bright enough to create glare



Additionally, some people have reported experiencing headaches, fatigue, and other physical symptoms due to the light from solar farms.

Electromagnetic Fields

Another potential health hazard associated with living close to a solar farm is [exposure to electromagnetic fields](#) (EMFs).



be generated by solar panels, inverters, and other equipment used in a solar farm.

ure to EMFs has been linked to a variety of health issues, such as headaches, fatigue, and

— solar farm can also expose you to noise from the equipment used in the solar farm.

This noise can be disruptive and lead to sleep disturbances and other physical and mental health issues.

Air Pollution

Solar farms can also create air pollution, which can be a health hazard if you live close to one.

Air pollution can come from the use of diesel fuel in the solar farm's equipment and the release of particulate

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illnesses and other health problems.



Solar farms can also present a fire hazard if they are located close to homes and other buildings.

The solar panels, inverters, and other equipment used in a solar farm can create sparks and cause fires if they are not properly maintained.

Other Risks



potential health hazards associated with living close to a solar farm, there are other risks that require consideration.

For example:

- **e.** Living close to a solar farm can also have an impact on your property value.

Living close to a solar farm can make it difficult to sell your property or get the price you want for it.

2. **Privacy.** Living close to a solar farm can also impact your privacy.


Solar farms can be large and can block out light from your windows, as well as obstruct your view of the surrounding area.

This can make it difficult to enjoy the outdoors or to relax in your own home.

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3. **Aesthetic.** Impact The presence of a solar farm can also have an aesthetic impact on your neighborhood.

^ '  find the large panels and other equipment used in a solar farm to be unsightly and a distraction of the area.

great way to reduce our reliance on traditional energy sources and help protect the environment.

er of factors to consider when determining what is a safe distance to live from a solar farm.

are potential health and safety risks associated with living close to a solar farm.

we have discussed the factors to consider and potential health hazards and other risks
ving close to a solar farm to help you determine the safe distance to live from one.

determining the safe distance to live from a solar farm, it is important to take into consideration
entioned factors as well as potential health hazards and other risks associated with living close to
one.

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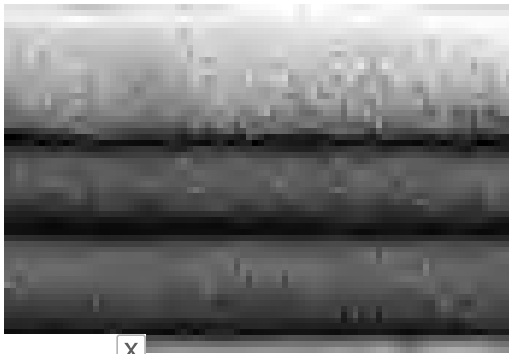


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9 June 2023

By email

planningcontrol@northwarks.gov.uk

Dear Mr Brown

Case Officer, North Warwickshire Borough Council

Reference Number	Valid Date	Site Location	Proposed Development
<u>PAP/2022/0071</u>	24/02/23	Land 800 metres South of Park House Farm, Meridien Road, Fillongley	Construction of temporary Solar Farm

I am writing on behalf of the Fillongley Flood Group (FFG) which has been in existence since 2012 but has recently been reorganised as a few of our members have either moved on, retired or passed away. I apologise for the delay in writing to you as I can confirm that many of the FFG members were formally notified of the above application in March 2023. However, the FFG members have been busy since we received the above Application (including the Flood Risk Assessment carried out on behalf of the Applicant, Enviromena). Members of the FFG attended the Fillongley Parish Council meetings to hear representations from the Applicant as well as having informal discussions with them. We advised them that we did not accept their Flood Risk Assessments and we asked the Parish Council if we could have an extension of time to submit further evidence. However, we were informed by the Parish Council that they were required to comply with mandatory timescales and in any event voted against the Applicant's application. We also suggested meeting with Enviromena but we have been unable to meet with them to date. We have, however, met with the Warwickshire County Council Flood Management Team that have been active in Fillongley for several years together with the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust and Councillor Dave Humphreys to discuss flood prevention as well as flood protection measures. We are aware that the WCC Flood Management Team have objected to the Applicant's application.

We are also commissioning our own report from an independent Consultant specialising in catchment hydrology, hydrochemistry, flood risk assessment, water resource assessment and planning etc.. The Consultancy firm has been recommended by the National Flood Forum. We will forward this report to you in due course.

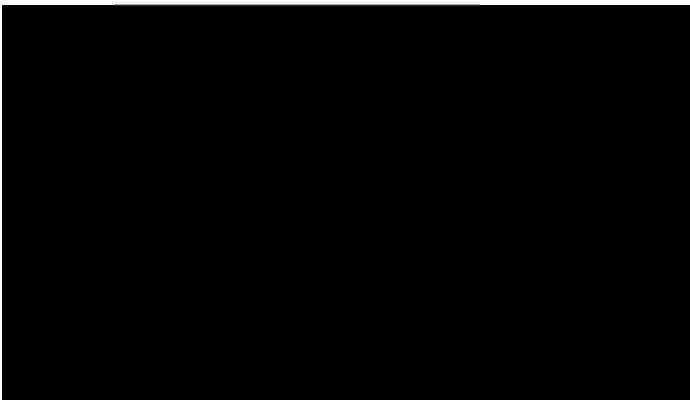
In the light of the above, the FFG met again this week. and we agreed that given our meeting with the WCC Food Management Team and WW Trust and our own concerns about the inadequate measures to prevent the heightened risk of flooding from the proposed solar farm development, we must formally object to their application.

Therefore, we should be grateful if you would confirm the following:

1. Timescales in respect of the Applicant's application and date of the Planning Committee Hearing;
2. Deadline for the filing of our expert's report and pending the submission of our expert's report any further evidence you may require from the FFG;
3. Whether you believe that a meeting with the FFG plus the WCC Flood Management Team, WWT and Enviromena would be helpful;
4. Confirmation that the FFG can attend the Planning Committee Hearing and make representations at that Hearing.

I look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 June 2023 09:32
To: [planappconsult](#)
Subject: Fwd: Solar farm Fillongley
Attachments: Image.jpeg; Image.jpeg

Caution: Warning external email

Hi,

There is also an article on the screening and how long it takes to become effective

<http://solar.caresuffolk.org/how-long-does-it-take-for-a-solar-farm-hedgerow-to-grow/>

Thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, May 22, 2023 8:52:28 PM

To: planningcontrol@northwarks.gov.uk <planningcontrol@northwarks.gov.uk>

Subject: Solar farm Fillongley

Dear Mr Brown,

With reference to the application for the solar farm Meriden Road, Fillongley. We noticed on the report that only two farm houses would be affected by this large Solar farm.

I also believe that on the application by Enviromena that they did not use an up to date area plan showing our houses at Far Parks.

Our own house is less than 500Mt from the fields that it is proposed to put the Solar farm with it's 86000 panels and inverters.(please see picture) This is taken from our kitchen window.

If you are interested I can share details of the noise impact made from the inverters which would impact out health both day and night due to the proximity to our home. We have 2 young children and we do not wish there to be a negative impact on thwir health.

I know that views don't come into it but the noise from the buzzing of the inverters would not be acceptable and would affect our mental wellbeing.

You will notice that the land is also actively Farmed, the land is being used for agriculture.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone





From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 June 2023 11:15
To: [planappconsult](#)
Subject: Fwd: Bess fires fillongley solar farm

Caution: Warning external email

Hi, some more information

[REDACTED]

To add to Jan's remarks here is some background on useful contacts for the SCA:

Though not yet listed on the NFCC site, its Emerging Energy Technologies Lead is Phil Clark,

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/phil-clark-614422180/?originalSubdomain=uk>

<https://twitter.com/AMPhilClark>

Phil.Clark@NationalFireChiefs.org.uk

Here is a talk of his at the Local Government Association's Annual Fire Conference 7-8 March 2023:

<https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/W3.%20Fire%20Safety%20in%20the%20modern%20world%20.pdf>

At a conference in Sept. chaired by Clark, Professor Paul Christensen of Newcastle University (mentioned below) gave a talk: "This presentation will be looking at the real risks presented including an overview of number of EV/LiBESS/EBike incidents. Some 'myth busting' around suppressions systems and is there a 'safe' LiB technology?" <https://www.ncl.ac.uk/engineering/staff/profile/paulchristensen.html>

The NFCC Alternative Energy & Fuels Lead is the unfortunately named Matt Deadman of the Kent Fire & Rescue Service 01622 692121 extension 8383.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/matt-deadman-29b59062/?originalSubdomain=uk>

Best regards,

Jim

Jim Moffat | Managing Director | Smith-Ivanson Limited

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From [REDACTED] >

Date: Thursday, 15 June 2023 at 09:22

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Bess fires

Good morning all

Following Jos' reminder about the deputy fire chief's comments about Grenfell, I want to share with you the first email I received from the NFCC Building Safety team last December. Note the penultimate paragraph in bold.

Having received that email, we have tried twice to get a proper response from the government:

- In January, we sent the fire chiefs' email to the Secretary of State with a request for a call-in on the grounds that the "failure to properly assess these fire risks as part of the Application would conflict with national policies on important matters and, given the expected surge in new solar farm applications, will have significant effects beyond their immediate locality."

Unfortunately, we were unsuccessful, with the SoS deciding that the matter should be determined locally.

- Our local MP, Rebecca Pow, wrote to the minister on our behalf to which we received the attached reply which is rubbish – take it to its logical conclusion that means, for example, a hotel doesn't need fire access because the individual manufacturers of all the soft furnishings have passed all safety standards and they're safe.

We're all concerned that developers and their friendly planning officers may rely on the fact that there is currently no statutory requirement for these BESS safety measures. But, clearly, the NFCC have now identified the risk and produced this guidance – can the local fire officers and everyone else involved choose to ignore it? The fire chiefs are concerned about the legacy fire risk – anyone ignoring this guidance and then having a BESS fire would surely be at risk legally as they are on notice.

As a group, we can pile on the pressure and publicise anyone or any professional body choosing to ignore the guidance; if we don't get a formal response during the planning process, we should push those with responsibility to put in writing why they believe they can ignore it.

Best wishes

From [REDACTED]

Date: Wednesday, 21 December 2022 at 12:37

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: BSP20220200: 00134654/659424 Application Type: Full Planning Permission Applicant: Novus Renewable Services Ltd Location: Land at Ham Farm, Creech St Michael, Taunton. Grid Reference: 329110.124652

Good afternoon [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email enquiry on 19 December 2022 regarding guidance for Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) to the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC), this has been passed to us here at the NFCC Building Safety Programme (BSP) Team. The NFCC is the professional voice of the UK Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) and we have no regulatory power, we cannot, therefore, comment on specifics of individual cases or premises, however, we do offer the following advice from the information provided.

NFCC are aware of the increased introduction of battery operated and powered devices in all their forms, into the built environment, and are aware of the international high-profile incidents that have occurred, and the risks (currently) identified regarding BESS. We have a full time NFCC Emerging Energy Technologies Lead to support the ongoing work of the NFCC Alternative Energy & Fuels Lead across the UK FRS from an Operational, Protection (Fire Safety) and Prevention perspective. We have also appointed Professor (Pure and Applied Electrochemistry) Paul Christensen of Newcastle University as our Senior Technical Advisor. One of NFCCs aims is to achieve consistent best practice in response and support to all UKFRS, something that is already occurring regarding BESS through the above roles, and **we are about to issue national guidance on this matter**, which is a challenge given the ever-evolving nature of the technology and the associated risks. The UKFRS are always willing to make comments at the earliest possible opportunity to highlight any concerns or general observations, this must be done within the existing multiple regulatory frameworks within which we operate. This was raised relatively recently in Parliament by Dame Maria Miller, the transcript can be located at [Lithium-Ion Battery Storage \(Fire Safety and Environm - Hansard - UK Parliament\)](#), with the second reading tabled for March 2023.

It should also be acknowledged that those responsible for designing, developing/constructing, and approving these sites also have responsibility, with the UKFRS being only one part. There is a considerable amount of guidance and testing available internationally, this is however still limited in application, and should always be assessed by a competent person.

We trust this assists you with your enquiry.

Kind regards,

Protection Policy & Reform Unit Administrative Team

Email: PPRUAdminTeam@nationalfirechiefs.org.uk

[National Fire Chiefs Council](#)




NFCC
National Fire
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[@NFCC_FireChiefs](#)

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Sent from [Outlook for iOS](#)



Subject: Bess fires

It's 6 years today since the horrific Grenfell Tower fire. Worth rereading(attached) what the Deputy Commissioner of the London Fire Brigade said regarding BESS, whilst reflecting on what needed to be learned from Grenfell.

Jos

Sent from my Galaxy



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 27 June 2023 06:32
To: [planappconsult](#); [REDACTED]
Subject: Important information re fillongley solar farm

Categories: Mandy

Caution: Warning external email

Good morning,

I feel it is very important to share this information. I am aware of natural springs in fillongley and also the local spring water facility.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

In case it's helpful...

A solar and BESS application in Hampshire (Winchester council 22/00447/FUL) has had concerns raised by the Fire Service but also now by Portsmouth water due to the potential for contamination of the drinking water supply to Portsmouth in the event of a fire & cooling using large quantities of water. At one point during the application, a bunded reservoir area (1420m3) was proposed by the applicant but deemed insufficient by the FS.

The FS have stated that they will not attempt to cool/put out a fire because of the risk of contamination of ground water supplies and a thermal runaway event would be managed via a 'controlled burn' with the sole responsibility of air pollution resting with the operator (stated several times). The FS recommended that the Environment Agency be involved and consulted with.

In a meeting that involved the FS, the LPA, Portsmouth Water & the Environment Agency, the applicant has been asked to consider the need for BESS at this location, the BESS chemistry (a different chemistry was believed to have lower risk of thermal runaway), increasing the spacing between containers, a proposal to include blast walls etc. Further information is awaited from the developer (who is Enso Energy in this instance). The EA have only commented that they were at the meeting and are waiting for further information from the developer. So far they do not seem to have got to grips with the issues in the way that the FS in Hampshire now have.

If anyone has aquifers / water extraction sites nearby to a BESS site, it might be worth looking at the documents on the planning portal.



On 26 Jun 2023, at 22:56, [REDACTED] wrote:

Evening All,

The risks of a BESS failure and a loss of control resulting in a thermal-runaway is slowly becoming more widely known. If one happens, massive quantities of water are required to firstly prevent neighbouring containers over heating and starting other thermal-runaways or the thermal-runaway is left to burn itself out.

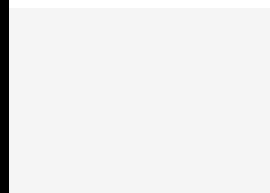
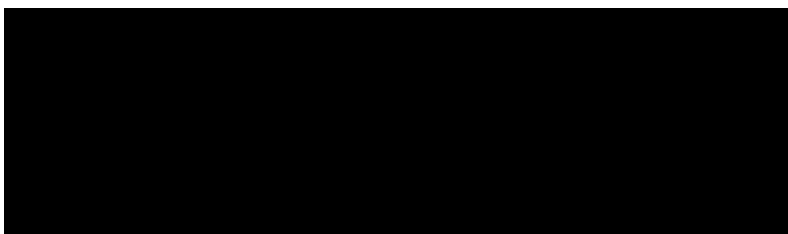
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If not already done so, it would be useful to see if your site is in an area protected for water extraction and also how far any reservoirs are close to a BESS site. If winds can bring sand particles from North Africa a prevailing wind can blow some hydrofluoric acid a few miles.

I believe that the very dangerous hazards surrounding the use of BESS are the Achilles heel of many projects. These hazards are known and so I would not like to be a Planning Officer or a District Councillor on a Planning Committee having to explain why they proposed and approved a BESS which subsequently suffered a loss of control and resulted in long-term damage to the environment, local resident's lives and well-being when these risks were known before the decision was taken.

Keep fighting for solar energy production in non-rural settings and a greater input for local communities.

Regards,



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Sue

On Mon, 26 Jun 2023 at 17:59, Website Admin SCA

[REDACTED]

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/longfield-solar-farm-development-consent-decision-announced>

Jos

Sent from my Galaxy

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 27 June 2023 06:37
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: Longfield approved

Categories: Mandy

Caution: Warning external email

Hi,

You may be aware of the recent application for a solar farm in Fillongley. There have been concerns raised regarding the potential contamination of water, the mail chain is below.

I believe its very important for you to be aware of this as some of the tributaries to your processing facility may be from this area.

I have also copied in the planning team at the council for awareness.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

In case it's helpful...

A solar and BESS application in Hampshire (Winchester council 22/00447/FUL) has had concerns raised by the Fire Service but also now by Portsmouth water due to the potential for contamination of the drinking water supply to Portsmouth in the event of a fire & cooling using large quantities of water. At one point during the application, a bunded reservoir area (1420m3) was proposed by the applicant but deemed insufficient by the FS.

The FS have stated that they will not attempt to cool/put out a fire because of the risk of contamination of ground water supplies and a thermal runaway event would be managed via a 'controlled burn' with the sole responsibility of air pollution resting with the operator (stated several times). The FS recommended that the Environment Agency be involved and consulted with.

In a meeting that involved the FS, the LPA, Portsmouth Water & the Environment Agency, the applicant has been asked to consider the need for BESS at this location, the BESS chemistry (a different chemistry was believed to have lower risk of thermal runaway), increasing the spacing between containers, a proposal to include blast walls etc. Further information is awaited from the developer (who is Enso Energy in this instance). The EA have only commented that they were at

the meeting and are waiting for further information from the developer. So far they do not seem to have got to grips with the issues in the way that the FS in Hampshire now have.

If anyone has aquifers / water extraction sites nearby to a BESS site, it might be worth looking at the documents on the planning portal.



On 26 Jun 2023, at 22:56, [REDACTED] > wrote:

Evening All,

The risks of a BESS failure and a loss of control resulting in a thermal-runaway is slowly becoming more widely known. If one happens, massive quantities of water are required to firstly prevent neighbouring containers over heating and starting other thermal-runaways or the thermal-runaway is left to burn itself out.

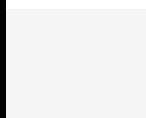
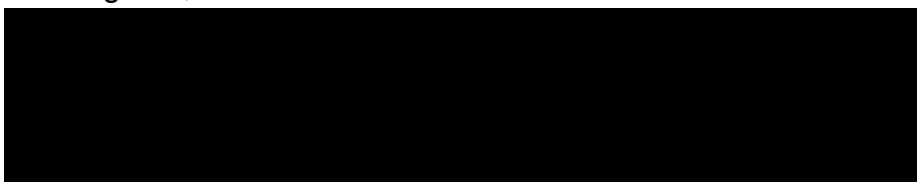
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[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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Sue

On Mon, 26 Jun 2023 at 17:59, Website Admin SCA

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Jos

Sent from my Galaxy

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 27 June 2023 18:19
To: [planappconsult](#)
Subject: Fwd: Longfield approved

Categories: Mandy

Caution: Warning external email

For reference it looks like the Fillongley location is covered by a Groundwater protection zone too

Subject: RE: Longfield approved

For those interested here's a link to the Groundwater Protection Zones interactive map, sadly our area isn't one of them!

<https://environment.data.gov.uk/DefraDataDownload/?mapService=EA/SourceProtectionZonesMerged&Mode=spatial>

Sent: Tuesday, June 27, 2023 4:41 PM

Subject: RE: Longfield approved

Importance: High

This is brilliant, thank you, my namesake!

But you are preaching to the converted!

Why not send your email as a letter to The Times?

Better still, feed it to a journalist at the Daily Telegraph which is always attacking HMG energy policy – and use the approval of Longfield as your topical 'hook'.

Best regards

Sent: Monday, 26 June 2023 22:57

[ance.info](#)>

Subject: Re: Longfield approved

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On Mon, 26 Jun 2023 at 17:59, wrote:

Yup, awful news. Speechless.

Best.




Subject: Longfield approved

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/longfield-solar-farm-development-consent-decision-announced>

Jos

Sent from my Galaxy

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 27 June 2023 18:46
To: [REDACTED]; [planappconsult](#)
Subject: Fw: Fwd: Longfield approved

Categories: Mandy

Caution: Warning external email

Please see below.

[REDACTED]
Begin forwarded message:

On Tuesday, June 27, 2023, 6:22 pm, K [REDACTED] wrote:

This is a long but very interesting thread. Particularly as we have Fillongley spring water processing facility down the road. There is also a link that seems to indicate our area is in an environmental agency protected area from ground water contamination. A fire at the solar farm would contaminate the zone

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: Tuesday, June 27, 2023 6:18:44 PM
To: planningcontrol@northwarks.gov.uk <planningcontrol@northwarks.gov.uk>
Subject: Fwd: Longfield approved

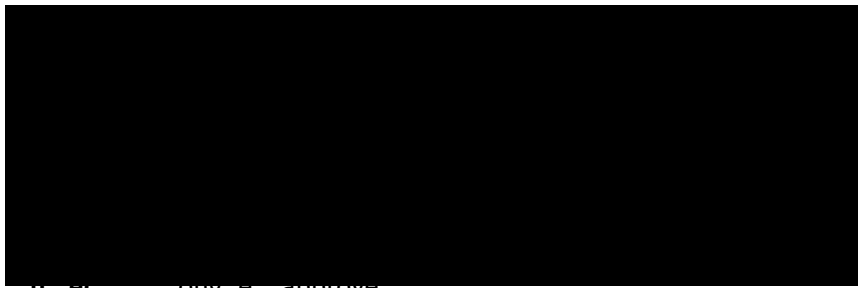
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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, June 27, 2023 4:41 PM



Subject: Longfield approved

Importance: High

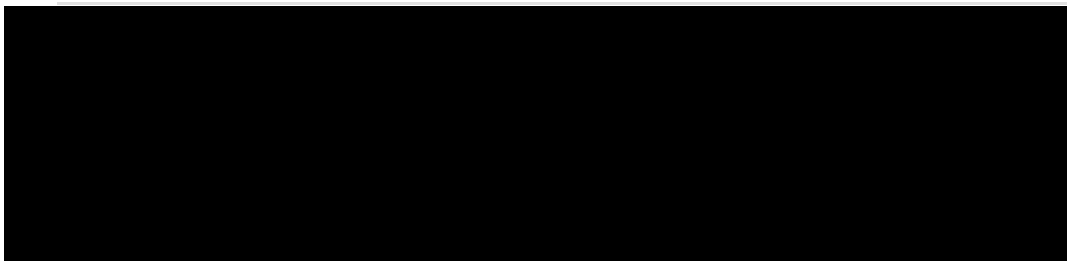
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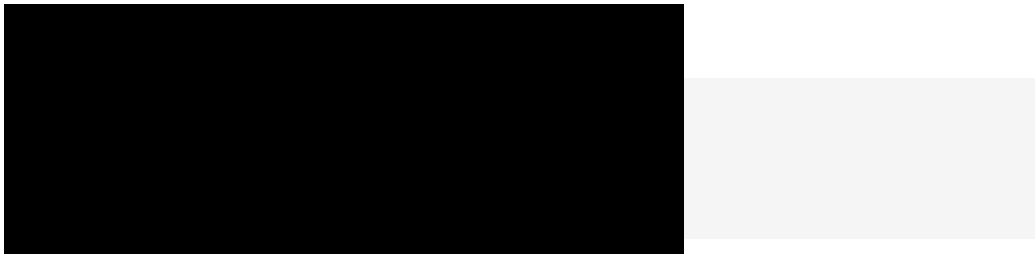
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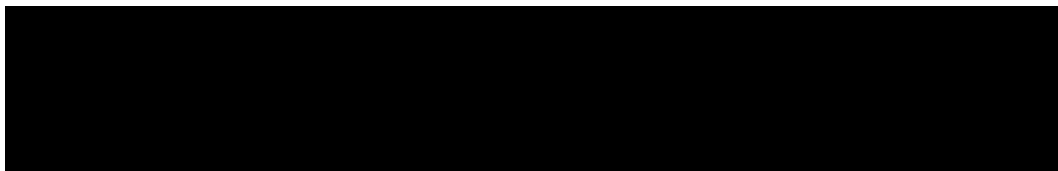
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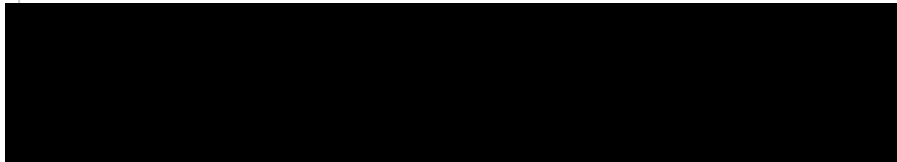
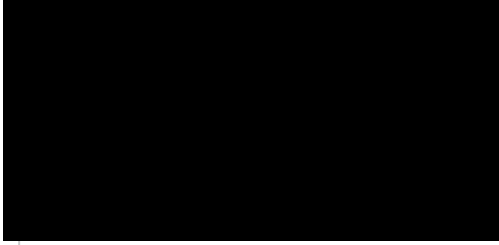
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Yup, awful news. Speechless.



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<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/longfield-solar-farm-development-consent-decision-announced>

Jos

Sent from my Galaxy

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 07 August 2023 14:34
To: [planappconsult](mailto:planappconsult@northwarks.gov.uk)
Subject: Re: What is a safe distance to live from a solar farm?

Caution: Warning external email

Hi,

This relates to planning application PAP 2023/0071

Cheers

[REDACTED]

On 7 Aug 2023, at 14:13, planappconsult <planappconsult@northwarks.gov.uk> wrote:

Good Afternoon,

Is the information below relating to a planning application consultation? If so please provide the application number.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 August 2023 07:54
[REDACTED]
clerk@fillongleyparishcouncil.co.uk
Subject: Fwd: What is a safe distance to live from a solar farm?

Caution: Warning external email

Hi planning team,

I have attached the following regarding safe distances to live near a solar farm. This article states that solar farms should be at least 3km from residential areas. I think this is important as the representative from the team proposing the solar farm didn't realise there were residential properties near the proposed site when we spoke with him at the local parish council meeting.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

Sent: Saturday, August 5, 2023 07:29

[REDACTED]

Subject: What is a safe distance to live from a solar farm?

Dear all,

Climate Cafés are community led, informal, inspiring spaces to get together, share ideas, information and get involved in climate action and at one of these I have found the following about the safe distances to live away from a solar farm:-

<https://climatecafes.org/what-is-a-safe-distance-to-live-from-a-solar-farm/>

I am still looking for more definitive info and was wondering if any one was better informed than me about this subject, because much of the proposal we are facing is no more than 500 metres away from domestic dwellings, let alone over 500 metres away...

Best Wishes



Website - www.northwarks.gov.uk

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<https://www.northwarks.gov.uk/emailupdates>

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What Is A Safe Distance To Live From A Solar Farm?



January 18, 2023

Solar farms are becoming increasingly popular as a source of renewable energy.

They provide a clean, renewable energy source that can help us reduce our carbon footprint and make our environment cleaner.

But when considering where to live, one of the most important factors to consider is safety.

Living too close to a solar farm could potentially pose a health hazard or other risks, so it's important to know the safe distance to live from a solar farm.

Satyam Patel | ...

@SatyamInsights · [Follow](#)



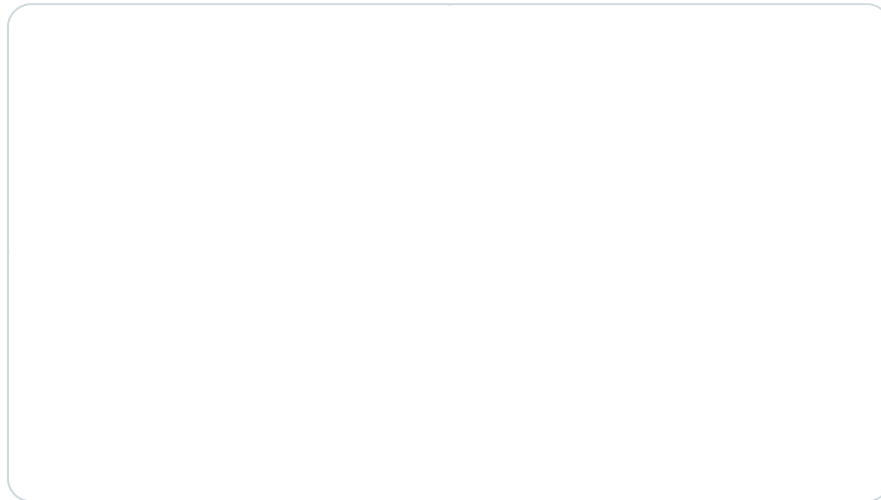
Bhadla Solar Park, the largest solar farm in the world:
14,000 acres located in Rajasthan, India

→ Ashok Gehlot led Rajasthan Government laid the foundation stone
on 21 August 2013

→ Producing an impressive 2,245 MW of power

→ Enough to power 2 million+ homes

[#Rajasthan](#)



2:50 PM · May 21, 2023



77



Reply



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In this blog post, we'll explore what is the safe distance to live from a solar farm, factors to consider, and the potential health hazards and other risks.

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1. Type of Solar Technology Used
2. Size of the Solar Farm
3. Local Climate
4. Local Terrain
5. Potential for Electromagnetic Interference

What Are the Potential Health Hazards and Other Risks

Exposure to Light

Electromagnetic Fields

Noise

Air Pollution

Fire Hazards

Other Risks

Conclusion

What Is A Safe Distance To Live From A Solar Farm?

A [solar farm](#) is a large area of land covered with solar panels that are used to collect and convert sunlight into electricity.

Solar farms are becoming more and more popular because they provide clean, renewable energy that can help us reduce our carbon footprint.

But when considering where to live, it's important to know what is the safe distance to live from a solar farm.



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This is our El Paso power plant in Colombia co! The solar park is made up of around 2. panels installed on an innovative structure: thanks to cutting-edge technology, it allow photovoltaic modules to follow the movement of the sun ☀️ with the aim of maximizing energy production ⚡

#Colombia #green #solar #solarpower #naturalpartnership #solarpanels #solarfarm #landscape #solarenergy #light #sky #renewables #egp #enelgreenpower #instapower #energy #alternatives #sustainable #nature #gogreen #solarcity #photovoltaic #technology #climatechange

The distance you can safely live from a solar farm depends on its size and the type of solar panels used.

In general, keep at least 500 meters away from a large-scale solar farm and at least 200 meters away from a small-scale solar farm.

For monocrystalline solar farms, it is recommended to keep at least 1000 meters away, while for polycrystalline solar farms, it is recommended to keep at least 500 meters away.

See also **[Is A Solar Farm Considered An Agriculture?](#)**

Additionally, if you are planning to build a new home near a solar farm, it is important to keep in mind that the solar farm must be at least 3 kilometers away from any residential areas.



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Do you know what the Sustainable Worksite model is? It's a mindset we adopt in all of our plants' construction phase, minimizing environmental impact and controlling key factors like energy use, waste recycling and water consumption, from the very first phase of each project. Our [#Villanueva](#) solar plant in Mexico is the perfect example of this incredible [#green](#) thinking 🌞🌿

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[#Mexico](#) [#Villanueva](#) [#solar](#) [#solarpower](#) [#naturalpartnership](#) [#solarpanels](#) [#solarfarm](#) [#landscape](#) [#solarenergy](#) [#light](#) [#sky](#) [#renewables](#) [#egp](#) [#enelgreenpower](#) [#instapower](#) [#energy](#) [#alternatives](#) [#sustainable](#) [#nature](#) [#gogreen](#) [#solarcity](#) [#photovoltaic](#) [#technology](#) [#climatechange](#)

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Factors To Consider

When determining the safe distance to live from a solar farm, there are a number of factors to consider.

These factors include the type of solar technology used, the size of the solar farm, the local climate, the local terrain, and the potential for electromagnetic interference.

Let's take a look at each of these factors in more detail.

1. Type of Solar Technology Used

The type of solar technology used in a solar farm can have an impact on the safety distance required.

For example, some solar technologies, such as concentrated photovoltaics (CPV), use lenses or mirrors to focus sunlight onto photovoltaic cells.

These systems have the potential to generate high levels of heat and produce more intense levels of electromagnetic radiation than other types of solar technologies.


Therefore, living too close to a CPV solar farm could pose a greater risk than living close to other types of solar farms.

2. Size of the Solar Farm

The size of the solar farm is also an important factor to consider when determining a safe distance to live from a solar farm.

Generally speaking, the larger the solar farm, the larger the area where emissions and radiation could potentially be a hazard.


Before figuring out how close you can live to a solar farm, it is important to know how big it is.



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Solar farm out in Wellington NSW. Plenty of renewable energy out there and few wind farms. Quite cool to see.

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#nsw #construction #renewableenergy #solar #solarfarm #solarenergy

Add a comment...

3. Local Climate

The local climate can also have an impact on the safety distance required.

For example, in areas with high temperatures, solar panels can become hotter and emit more radiation.

Therefore, living too close to a solar farm in a hot climate could pose a greater risk than living close to a solar farm in a cooler climate.



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With summer on the horizon, our headquarters in Poland is eagerly awaiting the exciting season ahead.

We are preparing to launch our newest PV farm soon.

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4. Local Terrain

The local terrain can have an impact on the safety distance required as well.

See also [Does State Farm Cover Solar Panels?](#)

For instance, living close to a solar farm on flat terrain may pose a greater risk than living close to a solar farm on hilly terrain.

This is because hills can provide some protection from radiation and other emissions.

5. Potential for Electromagnetic Interference

The potential for electromagnetic interference (EMI) is also an important factor to consider when determining a safe distance to live from a solar farm.

Solar farms produce a lot of electromagnetic radiation, and this radiation can interfere with the functioning of electronic devices.

So, living too close to a solar farm could cause electronic devices to not work properly.

What Are The Potential Health Hazards And Other Risks

When solar farms are in close proximity to homes and other buildings, there are potential health risks that must be taken into consideration.

Some of these potential health hazards include:

Exposure to Light

Exposure to light from solar farms can be a health hazard.

The main issue is the amount of light that is emitted from the panels, which can be bright enough to create glare and even cause eye damage.

Additionally, some people have reported experiencing headaches, fatigue, and other physical symptoms due to the light from solar farms.

Electromagnetic Fields

Another potential health hazard associated with living close to a solar farm is [exposure to electromagnetic fields \(EMFs\)](#).

These EMFs can be generated by solar panels, inverters, and other equipment used in a solar farm.

Prolonged exposure to EMFs has been linked to a variety of health issues, such as headaches, fatigue, and disrupted sleep.

Noise

Living close to a solar farm can also expose you to noise from the equipment used in the solar farm.

This noise can be disruptive and lead to sleep disturbances and other physical and mental health issues.

Air Pollution

Solar farms can also create air pollution, which can be a health hazard if you live close to one.

Air pollution can come from the use of diesel fuel in the solar farm's equipment and the release of particulate matter into the air.

See also [How Many Homes Can A Solar Farm Power?](#)

This air pollution can lead to an increased risk of respiratory illnesses and other health problems.

Fire Hazards

Solar farms can also present a fire hazard if they are located close to homes and other buildings.

The solar panels, inverters, and other equipment used in a solar farm can create sparks and cause fires if they are not properly maintained.

Other Risks

In addition to the potential health hazards associated with living close to a solar farm, there are other risks that must be taken into consideration.

These risks include:

1. **Property Value.** Living close to a solar farm can also have an impact on your property value.

The presence of a solar farm can make it difficult to sell your property or get the price you want for it.

2. **Privacy.** Living close to a solar farm can also impact your privacy.

Solar farms can be large and can block out light from your windows, as well as obstruct your view of the surrounding area.

This can make it difficult to enjoy the outdoors or to relax in your own home.

3. **Aesthetic.** Impact The presence of a solar farm can also have an aesthetic impact on your neighborhood.

Some people may find the large panels and other equipment used in a solar farm to be unsightly and a distraction from the beauty of the area.

Conclusion

Solar farms are a great way to reduce our reliance on traditional energy sources and help protect the environment.

There are a number of factors to consider when determining what is a safe distance to live from a solar farm.

In addition, there are potential health and safety risks associated with living close to a solar farm.

In this blog post, we have discussed the factors to consider and potential health hazards and other risks associated with living close to a solar farm to help you determine the safe distance to live from one.

When it comes to determining the safe distance to live from a solar farm, it is important to take into consideration all of the aforementioned factors as well as potential health hazards and other risks associated with living close to one.

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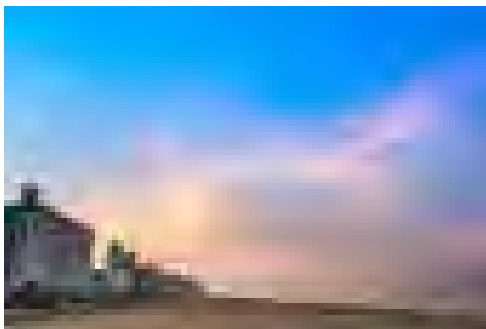
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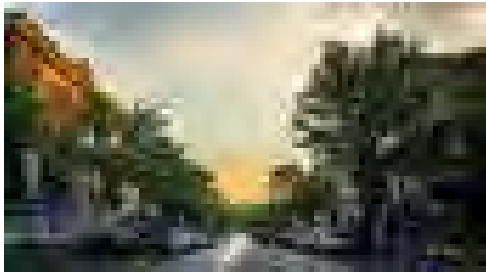
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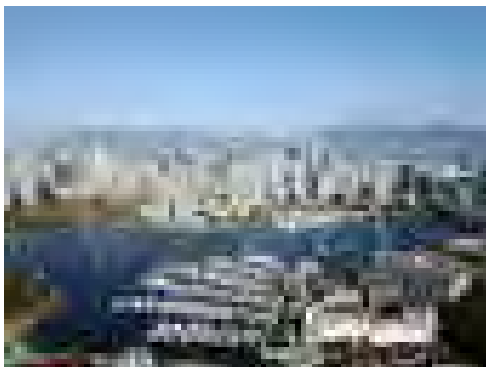
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July 18, 2023



Does It Snow In Tennessee?

July 16, 2023



Does It Snow In Vancouver?

July 13, 2023



Is Quartz Biodegradable?

July 10, 2023



Is Used Peanut Oil Biodegradable?

June 15, 2023

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Cost, Needs, & Process

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Considered An
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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 August 2023 08:56
To: planappconsult: clerk@fillongleyparishcouncil.co.uk
Subject: Re: Application PAP/2023/0071

Caution: Warning external email

Good morning team,

The article below is based on a new study that advises that low level radiation is harmful.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/radiation-exposure-cancer-research-uk-health-security-agency-b2394453.html>

Please can this be reviewed in line with this planning application and the proximity to residential areas.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2023 3:30:04 PM
To: planningcontrol@northwarks.gov.uk <planningcontrol@northwarks.gov.uk>
Subject: Application PAP/2023/0071
Hi,

I wanted to provide additional information to support my recent objection to this planning application.

Please find attached some guidance from DEFRA, which may be useful.

kind regards

[REDACTED]

Subject: Planning - your email to Defra

You may wish to open this reply from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities as a Word document to retain correct formatting.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: [REDACTED] 8:47
To: [planappconsult](#)
Subject: Fillongley solar farmFwd: Local paper report with the developer's response

Caution: Warning external email

Hi,

Please see more information relevant to the planning considerations.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Local paper report with the developer's response

[REDACTED]

In response to your request for responses to "solar developments are friendly to wildlife" plus the net zero argument, the following might help:
Kind regards

[REDACTED]

Despite the Gvmt retaining (as of 30/3/22) their current land grading - the Government's Energy Policy for Large Scale Solar Farms says "land type should not be a predominating factor in determining the suitability of the site location." <https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CDP-2022-0051/CDP-2022-0051.pdf>

There will be no bio diversity gains or gains for wildlife or the environment

Claims are made for increased biodiversity within solar farms but the reality is different. Toxic chemicals leak slowly from commercial panels and permanently pollute the soil. Run-off from the panels causes gulley soil erosion and possible flooding of nearby properties.

This headline from Forbes.com – 'Dark Side To Solar? More Reports Tie Panel Production To Toxic Pollution'
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/michaelshellenberger/2021/06/21/why-everything-they-said-about-solar---including-that-its-clean-and-cheap---was-wrong/?sh=3868eede5fe5>

A major new study of the economics of solar, published in *Harvard Business Review* (HBR), finds that the waste produced by solar panels

will make electricity from solar panels four times more expensive than the world's leading energy analysts thought. "The economics of solar," write [Atalay Atasu](#) and [Luk N. Van Wassenhove](#) of Institut Européen d'Administration des Affaires, one of Europe's leading business schools, and [Serasu Duran](#) of the University of Calgary, will "darken quickly as the industry sinks under the weight of its own trash."

And this from a report on 'The Effects of Revegetation on Soil Physical and Chemical Properties in Solar Photovoltaic Infrastructure' by Frontiers in Environmental Science (Frontiers in Environmental Science | www.frontiersin.org August 2020 | Volume 8 | Article 140):

<https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/environmental-science/editorial-board>

- Utility-scale solar energy development is land intensive and its large- scale installation can have negative impacts on the environment. In particular, solar energy infrastructure can require extensive landscape modification that transforms soil ecological functions, thereby impacting hydrologic, vegetative, and carbon dynamics.
- Χονδρεντιοναλ, υτιλιτυ-σχαλε σολαρ ενεργυ ινφραστυκτυρε μοδιφιες λανδσχαπες εξτενσιβελς τηρουγη τηε σιτε πρεπαραιτιον προχεσσ: νατιπε πεγετατιον ις ρεμοπεδ, τηε γρουνδ συρφαχε ις γραδεδ, ανδ φιλλ ις αδδεδ ανδ χομπαχτεδ (Ηερνανδεζ ετ αλ., 2014). Συχη μοδιφιχατιονς τρανσφορμ σοιλ πηψισχαλ, χηεμιχαλ, ανδ βιολογιχαλ προπερτιες, τηερεβς ιμπαχτινγ μοιστυρε ανδ νυτριεντ δηνταμιχς, ανδ τηυς σοιλ'ς αβιλιτυ το συππορτ πεγετατιον ανδ περφορμ α ηοστ οφ ασσοχιατεδ εχολογιχαλ προχεσσες.
- Δεπλοψινγ λαργε-σχαλε σολαρ Πς ινφραστυκτυρε χαν ηαπε νεγατιβε ιμπαχτς ον εχολογιχαλ φυνχτιονς ινχλυδινγ χαρβον σεθυστρατιον (Ραπι ετ αλ., 2014; Ηερνανδεζ ετ αλ., 2019). Μορεοπερ, σολαρ Πς ις σπαχε-ιντενσιβε, ωιτη τηε λαργε-σχαλε, νον-ιντεγρατεδ δεπλοψμεντ οφ σολαρ Πς εστιματεδ το ρεθυιρε μορε λανδ αρεα τηαν χοαλ, νυχλεαρ, ορ νατυραλ γασ τεχνηολογιες (Φτηενακις ανδ Κιμ, 2009).
- ιτ ις νυχλεαρ ιφ ρειντροδυκινγ νατιπε πεγετατιον ατ εξιστινγ σολαρ Πς σιτες χαν συχχεσσφυλλς μιτιγατε χηανγες το σοιλ ηυδρολογυ ανδ εχολογυ. Ιν χασες ωηερε νατυραλ λανδ ις λεασεδ φορ σολαρ προφεχτς, λεασες τυπιχαλλς σπαν 20–30 ψεαρς; δυρινγ τηις τιμε σοιλ ηυδρολογιχαλ ανδ εχολογιχαλ προχεσσες μαψ βε νεγατιβελς ιμπαχτεδ ορ μαδε σπατιαλλς ηετερογενεουσ. Ιν αδδιτιον το διμινισηινγ τηε λανδσχαπε'ς αβιλιτυ το συππορτ εχοσψστεμ σερπιχες δυρινγ τηε σολαρ φαχλιτυ'ς λιφεσπαν, τηεσε χηανγες μαψ λεαπε λεγαχς εφφεχτς τηατ περσιςτ λογγ αφτερ τηε ινσταλλατιον ις ρεμοπεδ.
- Τηε σιγνιφιχαντλς λοωερ τοταλ χαρβον ανδ νιτρογεν λεπελς ιν τηε σολαρ Πς σοιλ ψς. ιν τηε ρεφερενχε σοιλ (Φιγυρε 3) ωας λικελς χαυσεδ βψ τηε ρεμοπαλ οφ τοπσοιλ δυρινγ τηε αρραψ'ς χονστρυκτιον.

The journal 'Nature Scientific Reports' reports that Pavao-Zuckerman, lead author Greg Barron-Gafford of the University of Arizona School of Geography and Development, and their research colleagues, have demonstrated that temperatures around a solar power plant were 5.4-7.2 °F (3-4 °C) warmer than nearby wildlands. The discovery of this heat island effect may affect future decisions on when and where to convert natural ecosystems into large-scale solar facilities.

So, 3,440 acres in West Oxfordshire (and replicated by 10 other proposed large scale solar farms across the UK) will achieve at least double the set target for global warming. Not much help in balancing the bio diversity of the site as claimed by Botley West developers PVDP.

And this when the world is trying to contain global warming to 1.5 degrees.

Net Zero:

It is researched that, owing to the Carbon polluting means of making solar panels and delivering them (from China), it will take 20 years before that pollution is offset. 20 years of increased carbon pollution. The UN is suggesting that the tipping point of 1.5 degrees C will be reached within the next ten years.

The panels should last 25 years or possibly more, but the inverter is likely to need replacing sometime during this period, at a cost of around £800 Source: Energy Saving Trust

This means solar panels are more than likely to never reach net zero but actually contribute to carbon pollution through creating a carbon debt

Also visit :

<https://stopbotleywest.com/uncomfortable-truths/f/uncomfortable-truth-5>

On 17 Aug 2023, at 20:48, [REDACTED] wrote:

they

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 October 2023 09:26
To: [planappconsult](#)
Subject: Fw: Fwd: PAP 2023/0071
Attachments: FINAL VERSION Fire Service to Local Council 04.10.23.docx; FINAL VERSION Local Council to Govt 04.10.23.docx

Categories: Emma

Caution: Warning external email

See attached re fire issue.

[REDACTED]
Begin forwarded message:

On Wednesday, October 4, 2023, 6:32 pm, [REDACTED] > wrote:

Fyi

Dear all,

You may remember that after my recent meetings, Shropshire Fire and Rescue had sent a letter to both Telford and Wrekin Council and Shropshire County Council expressing their safety concerns about BESS. They also asked the CEOs of the Local Authorities to write to Government about this, and provided the councils with a pro-forma letter that they could use. Both local authorities have confirmed that they have now written to Gov't,

Prof. Edmund Fordham read these letters and identified some improvements that could be made, and so between us, we have re-written both letters to ensure they are current and technically correct.

I have attached both for immediate use.

Please ask your local Fire and Rescue Service to use these letters to express their concerns to their Local Authorities and to ask their Authorities to write to Gov't - hopefully, as it's simply a 'cut and paste job', they will be more receptive!

I am happy to keep a record of which FRS's have done this and whether the corresponding councils have also sent their letter - just let me know.

Also on the subject of BESS, the site that I am currently objecting to, uses lithium ferrophosphate battery cells (LFP).

The developers have mentioned multiple times in the application documents that these are far safer than li-ion, so I asked Edmund to clarify whether this was true. I am sharing his response below:

"LFP cells are one of two dominant types (LFP or NMC). Actually NMC cells are themselves a class having variable quantities of nickel manganese and cobalt. There are some sorts where one or more of those metals is absent LMO LCO Lithium Manganese Oxide, Lithium Cobalt Oxide etc. Really I like to call them "mixed metal oxide cells" because they all behave similarly in failure.

Here's the main difference:

LFP cells have higher thermal runaway threshold temperatures, and don't fail so aggressively ie slower and reach lower maximum temperatures.

I have heard one Managing Director of a local BESS claiming "fires" in LFP cells "can't happen". He was lying, and did it in public at a local community group.

If anyone tells you this, ask them why the Liverpool BESS fire and explosion happened. That was LFP.

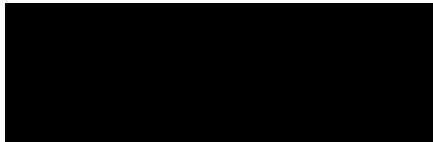
Ask them why the Beijing fire and explosion (a two-container accident with two fatalities) happened. That was LFP.

There were LFP fires in Australia (Griffiths University) and another in China I have lost. No matter - LFP BESS do fail.

Here's the real catch: Prof Christensen points out the collapse of the cathode structures (which is what releases oxygen internally to start an actual fire with flames) occurs later and at higher temperatures. So the very fact that LFP cells fail less aggressively (and some claim are "safer") allows more and more combustible aerosols, flammable gases etc to build up before ignition occurs, leading to a Vapour Cloud Explosion (VCE).

So though the risk of immediate fire is lower with LFP cells, the risk of VCE is higher. VCE is what happened in Liverpool and in Beijing."

Hope this is helpful,



FROM: xxxx Fire & Rescue Service

Dear (INSERT: CEO Local Authority)

Lithium-ion Battery Storage Facilities

I am writing to you to raise our safety concerns in relation to lithium-ion battery energy storage sites (BESS).

You will be aware that there is an increasing number of battery energy storage sites (BESS) across the country. These are susceptible to thermal runaway, where the energy stored is released in an uncontrolled fashion as heat, leading to major “fires” or Vapour Cloud Explosions.

Lithium-ion battery incidents can be catastrophic, resulting in the combustion of nearby structures, and, most alarmingly, the emissions of large quantities of highly toxic, life-threatening gases, such as Hydrogen Fluoride. They are chemically driven, require no external oxygen, and therefore cannot be extinguished by traditional methods. Vast amounts of water are needed over many days due to the risk of reignition.

BESS thermal runaway events are not “fires” in the traditional sense of the word, but self-sustaining chemical reactions that have gone out of control. They pose a unique threat to firefighters.

Therefore, I would be grateful if you could write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and Minister for Intergovernmental Relations, the Secretary of State for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs and the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, about safety in relation to BESS.

Please see the attached template as a recommended letter and/or content to include.

As a Fire and Rescue Service, we would also appreciate your assistance in ensuring any developments of this nature are overseen and that the risks in relation to the environment in which BESS are located are managed appropriately. The recently revised guidance from the National Fire Chiefs Council (June 2023) recommends early engagement in the planning process, but this is not a statutory requirement.

I would be happy to take any questions you have and thank you in advance for sending the letter to Government.

Yours sincerely

To:

The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

The Rt Hon Theresa Coffey MP, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

The Rt Hon Claire Coutinho MP, Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero.

Lithium-ion Battery Storage Facilities

I am writing to you to raise our safety concerns in relation to lithium-ion battery energy storage sites (BESS).

You will be aware that there is an increasing number of battery storage facilities across the country. These are susceptible to thermal runaway, where the energy stored is released in an uncontrolled fashion as heat, leading to major “fires” or Vapour Cloud Explosions.

Lithium-ion battery incidents can be catastrophic, resulting in the combustion of nearby structures, and, most alarmingly, the emissions of large quantities of highly toxic, life-threatening gases, such as Hydrogen Fluoride. They are chemically driven, require no external oxygen, and therefore cannot be extinguished by traditional methods. Vast amounts of water are needed over many days due to the risk of reignition. BESS thermal runaway events are not “fires” in the traditional sense of the word, but self-sustaining chemical reactions that have gone out of control. They pose a unique threat to firefighters.

Lithium-ion battery storage facilities are being proposed and constructed in close proximity to established communities, homes, businesses, busy roads, schools, natural water courses, areas of outstanding natural beauty.

The environmental impacts of thermal runaway at lithium-ion storage facilities places our fire and rescue services in an invidious position, with the Environment Agency, in the event of large quantities of contaminated waters entering our water courses and surrounding environs.

Many of the substances known to be generated in Li-ion BESS failures are listed as “hazardous” in Parts 1 or 2 of the Planning (Hazardous Substances) Regulations 2015. Hence by the “loss of control” provisions in Part 3 Column 1 of Schedule 1 to the P(HS)Regs 2015, all of the functional chemicals in the battery cells should be considered “Hazardous Substances” for Planning purposes.

Moreover, where substances have “major accident potential”, Part 4 Note 6 of Schedule 1 requires even those substances “not covered by the CLP Regulation” to be “provisionally assigned” to the “most analogous” hazard category in Part 1 or named substance in Part 2.

At the operational stage, the closely related Control Of Major Accident Hazards Regulations (COMAH) 2015 regulations, intended to safeguard public health, property and the environment, have an essentially identical Schedule 1 of “dangerous” substances.

The “loss of control” provisions of Part 3 P(HS)Regs 2015 are in the case of the COMAH Regs 2015 included at the level of the definition of “presence of a dangerous substance”. The requirements of Part 4 Note 6 P(HS)Regs 2015 are also included in the COMAH Regs 2015 as Part 3 Note 5.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has stated to Parliament (UIN 29036, July 2021) that “Li-ion batteries are ... outside the scope of (the) COMAH”. However, the legal authority for this has not been satisfactorily explained and is wholly divergent from the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland (HSENI, a different agency) which *does* regard Li-ion BESS as subject to COMAH. Not more than one of two contradictory positions can be legally correct.

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The recently revised guidance from the National Fire Chiefs Council (June 2023) recommends early engagement in the planning process, but this is not a statutory requirement.

We need Government to:

1. Recognise the potential dangers of Li-ion battery storage facilities,
2. Make Fire and Rescue Services statutory consultees for BESS planning applications,
3. Ensure full enforcement of the law governing major accident hazards, and
4. Ensure that all regulatory bodies have appropriate legislation in place to protect fire fighters and local communities.

Yours sincerely

(Signed Chief Exec xxxxx Council)


From: [Jeff Brown](#)
Sent: 05 February 2024 10:09
To: [planappconsult](#)
Subject: FW: 11370 Land at Nailcote Farm, LVA Rev D

Categories: Mandy

Please add this as a further representation to PAP/2023/0071

Thanks

Jeff


To: Jeff Brown <JeffBrown@NorthWarks.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: 11370 Land at Nailcote Farm, LVA Rev D

Caution: Warning external email

Dear Mr Brown,

Thank you for informing me regarding the revised application for the proposed Fillongley Solar Farm to which I still have some concerns and objections.

First of all is that no real considered thoughts regarding the amount of surface water that will be coming off the solar panels and draining in to the stream that pass's through the village. I'm sure that the parish Council have made you aware of this as there has been problems in the passed with flooding and only a couple of weeks ago if it wasn't for the local residents stepping in to sort out a problem there would have been further flooding. This could result in major costs to the council further down the line as you are no doubt aware that the village centre is in a dip and already struggles with surface water dispersal.

Secondly I feel that the position of this solar farm being next to the M6 and on a hill would provide more distraction to drivers traveling at speed with the clint and glare. Although the proposal is for putting more trees ETC around the site I fail to see how this would change anything as for the time scale of the maturity of such screening to take place.

Thirdly the environmental impact to the green belt in this area when we have two other solar farms being given permission is ridiculous as the land on which the proposed solar farm would be is good agricultural land nor the down graded land that the application is saying.

I would like you to add these objections to my previous objections for the said application.

Kind Regards

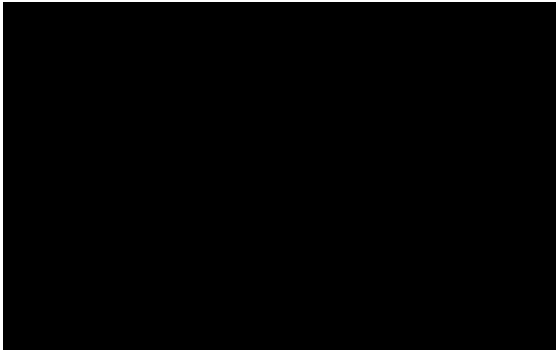


From: nlpg@northwarks.gov.uk
Sent: 06 February 2024 10:32
To: [planappconsult](#)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access

Categories: Mandy

Application Reference No. : PAP/2023/0071

Site Address: Land 800 Metres South Of Park House Farm Meriden Road Fillongley



Submission: Not Object

Comments: We do not object to this planning objection. Looking at the location, I can see it having very little impact.

Having a young family, I am passionate about being more sustainable and protecting our family for the future.

I understand people's concerns for the wildlife -but hedge trimming and farming also has an impact. Once implemented the wildlife will form around it.

I have been to the parish council meetings and heard a lot around 'in 10-15 years it will be brownfield and turned into housing... Good! The village lacks good, affordable housing and has an aging population. New build houses will offer affordable housing to first time buyers which might mean that those who have grown up in the village are not forced to move elsewhere.

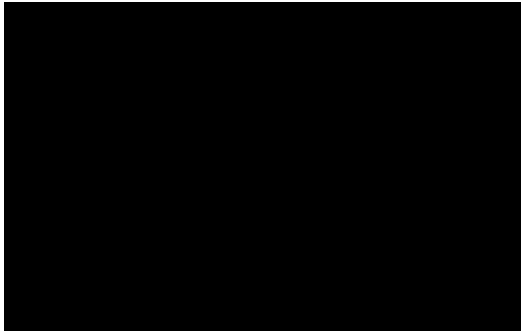
My only concern is the impact on flooding that it could have to the village that does have a flood issue. I think there have been some reassurances around this point but I would like further clarity/reassurances of what they would do if it did create a flooding issue.

From: nlpg@northwarks.gov.uk
Sent: 06 February 2024 12:09
To: [planappconsult](#)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access

Categories: Mandy

Application Reference No. : PAP/2023/0071

Site Address: Land 800 Metres South Of Park House Farm Meriden Road Fillongley



Submission: Objection

Comments: I strongly object to this solar farm . Why is this being built on greenbelt , when there are so many new homes being built on green spaces 2 ie Tamworth Road , eastern green and the go ahead for Browns lane, Allesley. Why are theses said new homes not having solar panels ? It seems such a simple solution to helping the climate and then you would not need a solar farm!! Or is that just too much common sense!

From: nlpg@northwarks.gov.uk
Sent: 06 February 2024 13:01
To: [planappconsult](#)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access

Categories: Mandy

Application Reference No. : PAP/2023/0071

Site Address: Land 800 Metres South Of Park House Farm Meriden Road Fillongley



Submission: Objection

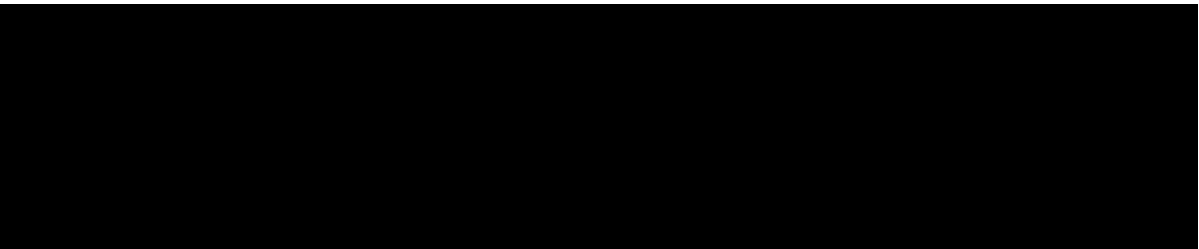
Comments: We object as we are the closest residential property I have concerns regarding huge visual impact to the landscape, noise and vibrations which will negatively affect us, including a proven loss of value to our property, as other properties that have had a similar development have reported.

From: nlpg@northwarks.gov.uk
Sent: 06 February 2024 16:04
To: [planappconsult](#)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access


Categories: Mandy

Application Reference No. : PAP/2023/0071

Site Address: Land 800 Metres South Of Park House Farm Meriden Road Fillongley



CV7 8AR



Submission: Support

Comments: 100% support it as we need more of them on the mainland

From: [Jeff Brown](#)
To: [planappconsult](#)
Subject: FW: Fillongley Solar Farm, Meriden Road, Fillongley. Application ref: PAP/2023/0071
Sent: 08/02/2024 11:36:13

Representation please - PAP/2023/0071

Thanks

Jeff

-----Original Message-----

Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2024 11:35 AM
To: Jeff Brown <JeffBrown@NorthWarks.gov.uk>
Subject: Fillongley Solar Farm, Meriden Road, Fillongley. Application ref: PAP/2023/0071

Caution: Warning external email

>

> Dear Sir,

> R:- Application Ref: PAP/2023/0071

> Construction of a temporary solar farm, Fillongley. Applicant:-

> Enviromena Project Management UK Ltd

> I wish to protest against this development on the following grounds:-

> 1. This massive solar farm will contribute to the flooding that Fillongley already has a problem with. The fields are sloping down towards the village and already boggy when it's rained. Unless full drainage is provided prior to construction of this solar farm it will increase flooding.

> 2. It will negatively impact on the diversity of the wildlife currently using fields in the area. There are many species of birds including birds of prey. Also foxes, stoats, badgers and deer are seen in the fields. The solar farm will discourage the wildlife and flora.

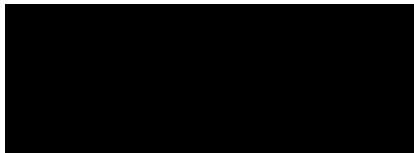
> 3. I believe that water running off solar panels is changed in its chemical elements and can be more toxic. Again a negative effect on flora and fauna.

> 4. This will be a massive solar farm that could have a negative effect on the economy of Fillongley businesses as it will discourage people from visiting the village.

> 5. It is important to retain as much agricultural land as possible. We need it for our economy.

> Nothing in the amended application has changed my mind to the objection.

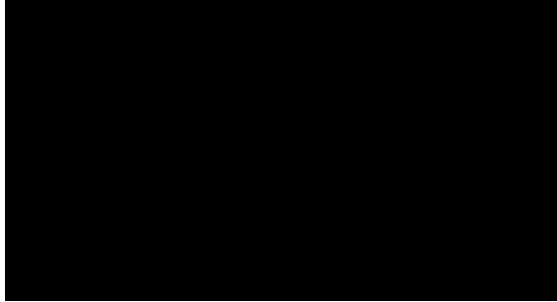
> Yours faithfully.



From: nlp@northwarks.gov.uk
To: [planappconsult](#)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access
Sent: 08/02/2024 19:52:40

Application Reference No. : PAP/2023/0071

Site Address: Land 800 Metres South Of Park House Farm Meriden Road Fillongley
urnbull



Submission: Objection

Comments: I strongly object to this application not justified to destroy more green belt the disruption to the environment/nature/the heavy traffic whilst in construction. Where are the solar panels going to be disposed of when no longer use able more landfill? IT IS NOT A FARM PRODUCING FOOD THE NAME IN ITSELF IS MISLEADING

From: [Jeff Brown](#)
Sent: 12 February 2024 11:13
To: [planappconsult](#)
Subject: FW: Fillongley Solar Farm - PAP/2023/0071

Categories: Mandy

Further representation

Thanks

Jeff

Sent: Saturday, February 10, 2024 10:59 AM
To: Jeff Brown <JeffBrown@NorthWarks.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Fillongley Solar Farm - PAP/2023/0071

Caution: Warning external email

Dear Mr Brown,

Thank you for your email. I have reviewed the planning application documents and my existing objections remain.

I hope that you will consider the feelings of the majority of Fillongley residents, and reject the Solar Farm application in Fillongley. There are many alternative options for solar energy in more appropriate locations, and these need to be utilised before land like this.

Despite the volumes of generic information submitted by the applicant, I do not believe that the benefit outweighs the disadvantages. The residents will only be impacted by the disadvantages of the development and will have no benefit.

The historical nature and integrity of Fillongley, sitting within the Forest of Arden landscape, needs to be preserved. The Neighbourhood Plan seeks to do this, and the protection of BMV farmland and greenbelt should be a priority. This sort of industrialisation will irrevocably change the nature of the area.

The most recent additions to the planning portal by the applicant seek to address concerns regarding nesting birds, and visual impact.

In summary, Skylarks are a welcome sight in this area. They are on the Red List and a Priority Species. I do not believe the plans are able to prevent impact on the nesting birds and will lead to an unacceptable decline in their numbers.

In addition, the visual impacts in this historic landscape simply cannot be mitigated due to the elevated height of the proposed land. Every view, from any angle, is deemed to be adverse in the report, at construction, 15 years and maturity.

Please see below for my expanded comments on birds and visual impact.

Expanded views

Skylarks:

The disturbance of skylarks, a red listed bird which nests on the areas proposed for development, is highly likely and deeply undesirable.

The document accepts that “skylarks are a ground nesting bird of open habitat” and then adds “including grassland as proposed beneath solar panels”. Underneath a solar panel is not an open habitat.

Solar Energy UK expand on this issue- “Skylarks can be found on agricultural land which is also suitable for solar farms and consequently, there is concern surrounding potential impacts. Preferring to nest in open fields, away from tall structures, skylarks need clear sight lines in order to spot predators. The presence of solar arrays is therefore not conducive to nesting by skylarks”.

[*Solar farms and songbirds: could skylarks benefit from ground mounted solar? • Solar Energy UK*](#)

Therefore providing a number of closely packed skylark plots underneath the solar panels as in appendix 2 of the BNG report is clearly inappropriate. The clear line of vision needed by the bird to view predators would not exist.

Visual impact:

In terms of visual impact of the site- without dissecting all the aspects considered in the document- every view is deemed to be “adverse” in some capacity, apart from users of the M6 motorway, which is not particularly relevant for local residents.

More worryingly, there are several aspects deemed to still have major/moderate impact even at long term.

The disingenuous language used by the applicant of “glimpses” of the site suggest that they have never appreciated time in the countryside. Ramblers would have to be moving at high speed to only get a “glimpse”, and even moving relatively quickly in a car, the views across the elevated land on the Meriden Road are very clear and at the moment, bring great pleasure to visitors and residents over the changing seasons.

No amount of planting can screen the height of the land, hence the report declaring there will still be moderate adverse visual impact at maturity.

In addition, although there is no new data submitted this year as far as I can see, flooding continues to be a concern.

The proposed site itself is deemed to be low risk, but it is the impact of flooding in Fillongley village which is more important.

From the available documents, the review of flooding seems to relate only to the risk of flooding on the site. If the applicant had been in Fillongley over Christmas, or indeed in the last few days, they would understand that any tiny increase in speed of rainfall runoff could have a devastating effect. Flash flooding when rainfall hits glass panels can only have an accelerated effect on the local waterways and the culvert in the centre of the village.

The report says that increase in runoff is “negligible” (“the proposed development will result in a negligible increase in impermeable surfaces, leading to a minor

increase in runoff rates and volumes"). I would argue that any tiny increase in runoff will amplify flooding in the centre of the village, putting homes even more at risk.

Algorithms used in the calculations do not consider the village pinch point (the culvert underneath the main road in the centre of the village) and therefore do not represent an accurate projection of impact.

Residents and the village sidesman have in the last month spent several days and nights in the water as needed, to keep the culvert clear during periods of heavy rainfall. Allowing the development to proceed puts an unacceptable level of risk and worry to those living, working and driving in Fillongley.

Thank you for your consideration of these points, as you review this application. I do hope you will feel that maintaining the integrity of this beautiful village and surrounding area is as important as it is for us.

Kind regards



On Thursday, 1 February 2024 at 12:29:35 GMT, Jeff Brown <jeffbrown@northwarks.gov.uk> wrote:

We have today received amended plans for this proposal as attached

There are also amended documents attached to the case file on the website (those received on 1/2/24)

I would be grateful to receive any comments on these amendments **BEFORE 16th FEBRUARY if possible please.**

Many thanks

Jeff Brown

NWBC

Website - www.northwarks.gov.uk
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From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Resubmission OBJECTION TO PLANNING APPLICATION Ref: PAP/2023/0071
Sent: 12/02/2024 12:18:41

Caution: Warning external email

I wish to reregister my objection to this planning application in the strongest possible terms of concerns and effects on Fillongley village and its surrounding areas.

Whilst I acknowledge the climate challenges facing our planet and the need to increase the sustainability of our energy production across the UK this application for a huge solar farm will engulf the area and cause demonstrable harm to our countryside and agriculture land. It proposes very little by the way of community benefit to mitigate this harm.

I therefore OBJECT for the following reasons:

Loss of good quality agricultural land

I refer you to the Government Written Ministerial Statement dated 25th March 2015 which says in the light of continuing concerns about the unjustified use of high quality agricultural land, "... we want it to be clear that any proposal for a solar farm involving the best and most versatile agricultural land would need to be justified by the most compelling evidence."

In the applicant's soil study report it shows both 2A and 2B soil quality and In fact none of the land is rated as grade 4 (poor quality) or grade 5 (very poor quality).

The fields in question are mainly grade 2 so not to lose 150 acers of grade 2 soil is all the more important. Losing good to very good quality agricultural land is not the most efficient use of this site and wholly contrary to paragraph 123c of the NPPF. Paragraph 5.10.8 of the Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1), so readily quoted in the planning application, says applicants should "preferably use land in areas of poorer quality (grades 3b, 4 and 5)".

Paragraph 170 of the NPPF states "Where significant development of agricultural land is demonstrated to be necessary, areas of poorer quality land should be preferred to those of a higher quality". This 150 acre development is neither necessary nor is it situated on poorer quality land.

I also ask the council to check the field classification submitted by the applicant and commission an independent survey. This land has been crop farmed for many years and should remain agricultural land.

Detrimental change to the character of open fields and farmland

The character of this area surrounding Fillongley village is one of open fields dotted with housing surround and overlooking the development proposal. The solar farm will dominate the area and change the character of this part of the countryside.

I have no objection to small sensitively placed solar farms potted around the area that are occasionally glimpsed which we are already have 2 in development, 1 in Arley and 1 in Corely by the motorway services. This would mean 3 solar farms far to close together ruining a large section of the north Warwickshire countryside. However this enormous installation of this new proposal by Fillongley will blight this highly coveted countryside. This will be industrialisation of farm land/ countryside that will be lost for at least 40 years and maybe forever.

Impact on setting of nearby housing

The application site is surrounded by many houses around the village and surrounding area surrounding on two sides of the proposed solar panels. The proposal is on a hill overlooking the village so there is no escape from the view of the solar panels, it will be impossible to hide with hedges and existing trees, in particular visible during winter months. Whilst generally there is no right to a private view in planning, where the scale of the development is so big, as is the case with this 150 acre proposal, the overall impact on the attractiveness of the area for the occupiers of these homes and the general public is a material planning consideration. To have adjacent fields filled with hundreds of solar panels will dominate their environment and render the homes unattractive places to live. This would likely have an impact on housing prices with house buyers coming to the village and paying the house price premiums for the views of the surrounding countryside.

Solar panel sun light reflection towards onlooking houses will be an issue for those panels on the side of the hill facing Fillongley village in particular Coventry road, the panels angle will reflect sun light towards the Coventry road houses.

Increased risk of flooding

There is a long history of flooding around these fields. In particular water run off from the M6 coming through the proposed land and into the village. It is undeniable that structures such as the solar panel supports expected to be into the ground 1.5 -2 meters down in the ground, foundations for fences and other impervious equipment will result in less land that can take up excess water. The existing fields are regularly ploughed and this helps let rainwater soak down through the surface. This flooding mitigation will be lost if covered in panels and the areas around the solar panels are likely to become trodden down from being used for maintenance access (or by sheep grazing) and are less likely to soak up water. The panels will deviate heavy downpours and result in a greater risk of flooding.

Any increase in the risk of flooding is unacceptable given the current problems in the area flooding many houses and the Manor public house in the dip of the village.

Insufficient public benefits/mitigation to over the harm caused

The applicant puts forward no initiatives in support of the application for Fillongley Village residents. No mention is made of the fact these vast open fields are used by by Red Kites, Buzzards and owls among many birds of prey. Kites are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the loss of such a large area of their natural hunting ground will impact on their numbers. With no biodiversity improvements, there is no mitigation of the harm the solar farm will cause to the local bird of prey in particular the Kite population.

For example;

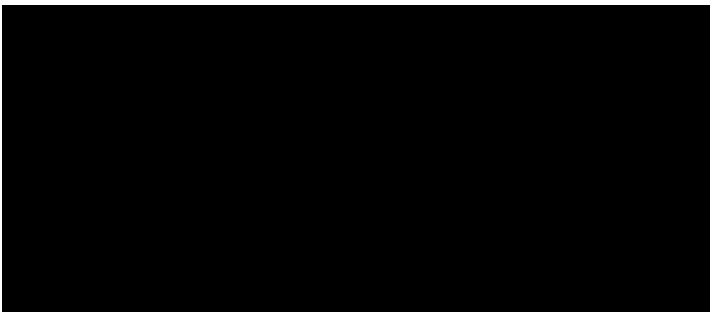
- Sheep grazing is suggested but there are no details or guarantees this activity would happen and overgrazing can lead to soil erosion. Using good quality agricultural land for sheep grazing is a waste. More details should be provided over how the grass will be cut and maintained rather than relying on sheep.
- No mention of bird of prey such as Owl boxes, beehives, bat and dormouse boxes which would be welcomed we would expect the current agricultural activity to incorporate these as a matter of good practice.
- The proposed to keep current screening will not work– you can see between trees and hedges, particularly during the autumn and winter months.
- No improvements or financial benefit be compensation of the solar farm Impact to the area or reduce energy costs to residents.
- Materials of solar panels can have potential hazards, there are no provisions in the application in the evnt of damage.

Risk of the farm land not being reinstated

There are no assurances by the applicant that reinstatement of land would occur after the 40 year lease and no insurance policy or bond would be purchased to ensure the reinstatement of the land. The reinstatement of the land will be a costly exercise and an enormous risk should the company go bust. It is imperative the works to remove all the equipment is costed and put into a bond so the council can ensure the land is reinstated should the company go into liquidation or not have the finances after the planning consent expires. Without this the removal of the equipment will be unenforceable.

For all the above reasons this enormous ill-conceived development is wholly unacceptable and I urge the Council to refuse planning permission.

Yours sincerely,



From: [Jeff Brown](#)
Sent: 14 February 2024 08:44
To: [planappconsult](#)
Subject: FW: Objection to Planning Application Reference PAP/2023/0071 - Solar Farm Development near Fillongley

Categories: Mandy

Another Representation for PAP/2023/0071 please

Thanks

Jeff

-----Original Message-----

Sent: Tuesday, February 13, 2024 8:24 PM
To: Jeff Brown <JeffBrown@NorthWarks.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Objection to Planning Application Reference PAP/2023/0071 - Solar Farm Development near Fillongley

Caution: Warning external email

Dear Mr Brown,

I am writing to formally object to the planning application referenced PAP/2023/0071 regarding the proposed solar farm development located approximately 800 meters south of Park House Farm along Meriden Road, Fillongley.

1. **Scale of Development:**

The size of the proposed solar farm in comparison to the village of Fillongley is a matter of concern. The visual impact of such a large-scale development on the landscape is likely to be substantial, altering the character of the village and potentially diminishing its aesthetic appeal.

2. **Loss of Farmland and Food Security:** The conversion of valuable agricultural land for the solar farm development raises serious concerns about the loss of farmland and its implications for local food security. Given the agricultural nature of the area, the impact on the community's ability to sustain itself through local produce must be carefully considered.

3. **Potential Use of Misleading Wide Angle Photography:** There are apprehensions regarding the possibility of misleading representations in reports through the use of wide-angle photography to downplay the actual impact and appearance of the solar farm. Transparency is crucial in assessing the true visual and environmental consequences of the proposed development.

4. **Impact on Wildlife, Specifically Skylarks and Yellowhammers:** The presence of skylarks and yellowhammers in the area is of utmost concern. These bird species are known to prefer open fields for nesting, and the introduction of solar arrays may disrupt their natural habitats. The potential adverse effects on these species, including nesting challenges and disturbances, require thorough evaluation.

5. **Skylark Nesting Preferences:**

Skylarks' nesting habits, which include avoiding tall structures for clear sight lines, make the proposed solar farm incompatible with their natural behavior. The disturbance caused by the solar arrays may lead to adverse consequences for the local skylark population.

In light of these concerns, I urge the Planning Department to carefully review the environmental impact of the proposed solar farm development, considering the objections raised and exploring alternative solutions that minimize the negative consequences on the village of Fillongley.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. I trust that the Planning Department will give due consideration to the concerns raised by the community in evaluating the suitability of the proposed solar farm development.

Sincerely,





Mr Jeff Brown
The Council House
South St., Atherstone
Warwickshire CV9 1DE

Dear Mr Brown

PAP/2023/0071 – Solar Farm

With regard to the applicants re-submitted plans to the above development, I am not convinced that these mitigate the concerns raised by myself or other residents, therefore my objections still remain.

Letter of objection – 14 April 2023

Having carefully read the proposed development of a solar farm on Meriden Road, Fillongley, I wish to object on the following grounds:

Green Belt and Rural Environment

This proposal creates an industrialisation of our rural environment and undermines the Council's policy of protecting the Green Belt. In principle, we should be looking at renewable, alternative sources of energy, but the sheer size and scale of the 'farm' is disproportionate to the rural environment. It is misleading and untrue, to declare that the earth is unsuitable for agriculture, local farmers are familiar with the grade of soil and disagree with the applicants' assertion that it is unsuitable for growing crops.

In the current economic climate, the land should be utilised for food production and builders and developers encouraged to use newly constructed homes and businesses with solar energy to replicate other countries policies of adding solar panels to roofs, etc. It would be more acceptable if unused brown field sites be sourced for these plans (Daw Mill for example) and developed accordingly.

Our village has a cherished heritage, containing a number of listed buildings within a conservation area and I wish to express concern that it will be dwarfed by the size of the solar farm making it visible to many properties from near neighbours to residents who live on Meriden Road, Coventry Road and beyond, encompassing Corley residents too. The proposal therefore is viewed as inappropriate development and would be harmful to the openness of the Green Belt.

The Applicant has advised residents that this is a 'temporary' construction – which was quoted as '40 years'. The same condition was applied to Daw Mill site, but was never honoured and remains derelict and unused.



Biodiversity

It has been recorded that the solar panels can be detrimental to wildlife: covering bar foraging bats areas, preventing movement of larger animals and restricting wildlife corridors and we are concerned that there will be removal of trees and hedgerows, all essential for nature conservation.

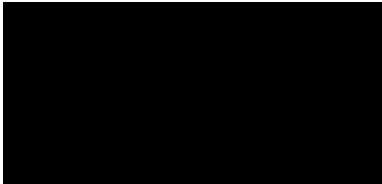
Flooding

Several properties have been subject to flooding in the past and have formed a Flood Group to focus on the causes and consequences of these. The aggravation of the flooding has been recorded as significant run off from the motorway and, as the plan appears to run over the passage of water to the village, it will have the capacity to worsen the situation.

Our Neighbourhood Plan seeks to minimise these risks, protect our Green Belt area and maintain our rural and natural environment.

Therefore, I would respectfully request the North Warwickshire Borough Council refuses this application and the proposed amendments.

Yours sincerely



From: nlp@northwarks.gov.uk
To: [planappconsult](#)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access
Sent: 15/02/2024 12:40:26

Application Reference No. : PAP/2023/0071

Site Address: Land 800 Metres South Of Park House Farm Meriden Road Fillongley



Submission: Objection

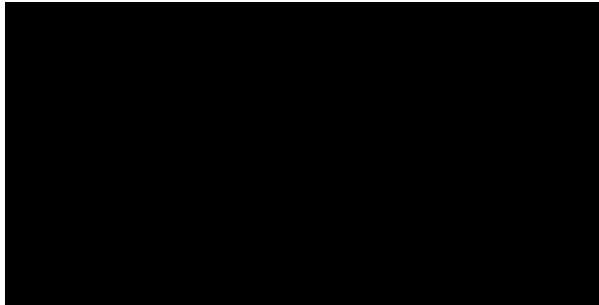
Comments: To use good greenbelt farm land that will be destroyed by 40 years use as a solar farm is of no benefit to our community.

There is brown land that is suitable note DawMill as 1 local area.

From: nlp@northwarks.gov.uk
To: [planappconsult](#)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access
Sent: 15/02/2024 12:44:55

Application Reference No. : PAP/2023/0071

Site Address: Land 800 Metres South Of Park House Farm Meriden Road Fillongley



Submission: Objection

Comments: To the use of green belt & good farm land

As a solar farm that will cause problems during in

& after it's installation if these was to be agreed.

From: [Jeff Brown](#)
To: [planappconsult](#)
Subject: FW: FW: Fillongley Solar Farm - PAP/2023/0071
Sent: 15/02/2024 13:41:22

Another representation

Jeff

Sent: Thursday, February 15, 2024 1:36 PM
To: Jeff Brown <JeffBrown@NorthWarks.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: FW: Fillongley Solar Farm - PAP/2023/0071

Caution: Warning external email

Dear Jeff, many thanks for your email and details. I have reviewed the documents and there is nothing in there to change my opposition to Fillongley Solar Farm. I refer you to my previous correspondence on this matter. Regards, [REDACTED]

On Thu, 1 Feb 2024, 12:03 Jeff Brown, <JeffBrown@northwarks.gov.uk> wrote:

[REDACTED]

We have today received amended plans for this proposal as attached

There are also amended documents attached to the case file on the website (those received on 1/2/24)

I would be grateful to receive any comments on these amendments **BEFORE 16th FEBRUARY** if possible please.

Many thanks

Jeff Brown
NWBC

Website - www.northwarks.gov.uk
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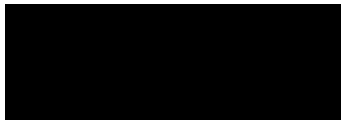
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From: nlp@northwarks.gov.uk
To: [planappconsult](#)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access
Sent: 15/02/2024 22:35:21

Application Reference No. : PAP/2023/0071

Site Address:  en Road Fillongley

Comments: I have objected to the plans for the solar farm and my objections remain ,I have seen the amended plans and see no real difference ,I can't see why anyone would want to be seated near to fields of glass it doesn't make sense .

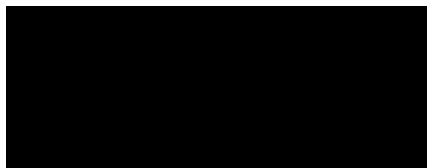


From: [REDACTED]
To: [planappconsult; Jeff Brown; \[REDACTED\]uk;](#)
Subject: Fw: Application Ref. PAP/2023/0071 Proposed Solar Farm, Fillongley (second application)
Sent: 15/02/2024 21:05:05

Caution: Warning external email

Dear Sir/Madam

Please see our original email below outlining our objections to the proposed solar farm in Fillongley. We wish to state that these objections still stand for the second planning application. The new application submitted does not change any of our objections.



Begin forwarded message:

On Monday, March 20, 2023, 2:16 pm, gary hickman <garyjhickman1@sky.com> wrote:

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 Far Parks residents although they will be submitting their own individual objections.

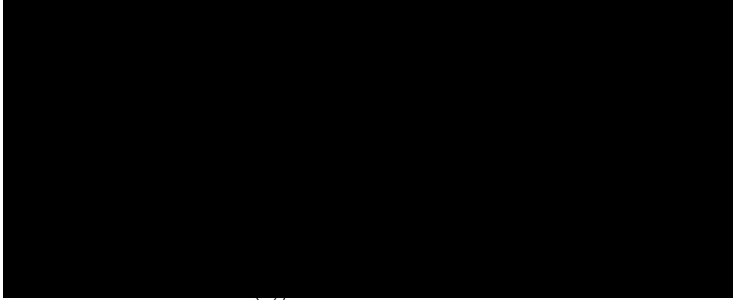
Kind regards



From: nlp@northwarks.gov.uk
To: [planappconsult](#)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access
Sent: 16/02/2024 11:11:33

Application Reference No. : PAP/2023/0071

Site Address: Land 800 Metres South Of Park House Farm Meriden Road Fillongley



Submission: Objection

Comments: I have already objected to this application. I am now objecting to the revised application. This development is not appropriate on green belt land

The development would increase the flood risk dramatically in Fillongley Village and destroy the visual and rural environment

Reference : PAP/2023/0071

Objection/Rejection to plan

- 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 gusts 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 with 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
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- 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.

Please consider the local authorities own planning guidelines too;

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

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 \(bregroup.com\)](#)

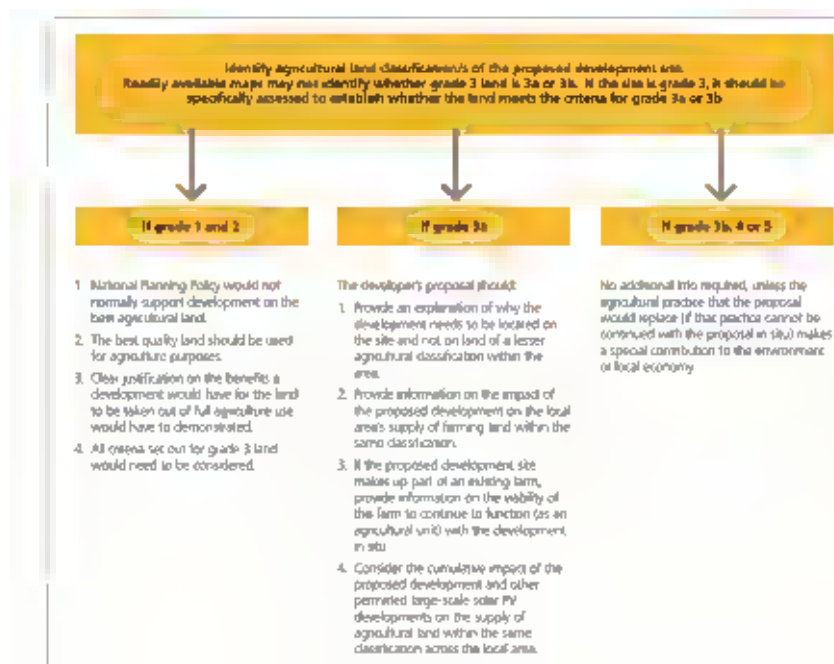


Figure 6 Steps for developers on agricultural land classifications

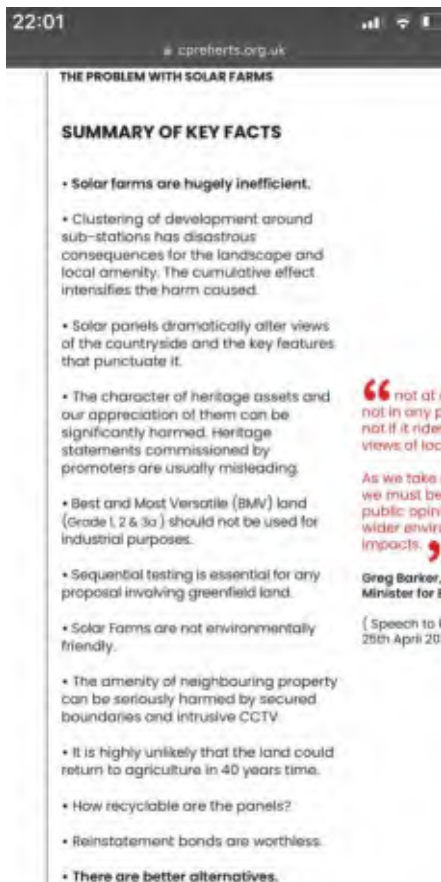
There is no justification in the provided proposal as to why grade 2 and grade 3a land is being proposed. This is particularly disturbing as the proposal mentions 2 other proposals with 4 km also built on green-built. No clear exceptional justification is provided.

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>



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 the 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 with 4km 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 would be delivered would only be viable for 13 years post 2050, what are the plans post this daye. This shows very short term thinking.

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.

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

[Renewable and low carbon energy - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://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;”

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

Further notes and reference articles supporting the reasons to object.

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

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

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 on 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 its greener but its 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.lw.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 authro

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. 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.

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 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 note 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 capture al the other houses that form are also impacted.

Page 48: The centre of the site is shown, you see the incline, it would be god 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.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18 February 2024 17:51
To: [planappconsult](#)
Subject: Fillongley Solar Farm - PAP/2023/0071
Attachments: SolarFarm.docx

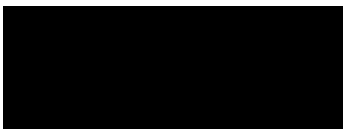
Categories: Mandy

Caution: Warning external email

Good Evening

Having been through the 'revised' plans, I still stand by my previous comments around the proposal for a solar farm in Fillongley and I still cannot support it in any way. I've reattached my previous feedback - none of which has been eased, so please assume it all carries forward to the updated proposal too.

This should not be going ahead, for the reasons outlined - there are far more suitable places solar panels should be being set up - office buildings, houses, factories for example.



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.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18 February 2024 17:54
To: [planappconsult](#)
Subject: Fwd: Fillongley Solar Farm - PAP/2023/0071
Attachments: SolarFarm.docx

Caution: Warning external email

To add - sadly the addition of a picnic area (which I'm not sure who would ever use given the proximity to the solar farm and lack of greenery to consequently be seen) and a few extra trees are not enough to change anybody's mind on this. If anything, it shows how little the applicant cares.

----- Original Message -----

[REDACTED]
To: planappconsult@northwarks.gov.uk
Sent: Sunday, 18 Feb, 2024 At 17:50
Subject: Fillongley Solar Farm - PAP/2023/0071

Good Evening

Having been through the 'revised' plans, I still stand by my previous comments around the proposal for a solar farm in Fillongley and I still cannot support it in any way.
I've reattached my previous feedback - none of which has been eased, so please assume it all carries forward to the updated proposal too.

This should not be going ahead, for the reasons outlined - there are far more suitable places solar panels should be being set up - office buildings, houses, factories for example.

[REDACTED]

From: [Jeff Brown](#)
Sent: 19 February 2024 08:41
To: [planappconsult](#)
Subject: FW: PAP/2023/0071

Categories: Mandy

Further representation

Thanks

Jeff

From: [REDACTED] [m](#)>
Sent: Friday, February 16, 2024 6:17 PM
To: Jeff Brown <JeffBrown@NorthWarks.gov.uk>
Cc: F [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] PAP/2023/0071

Caution: Warning external email

Dear Jeff

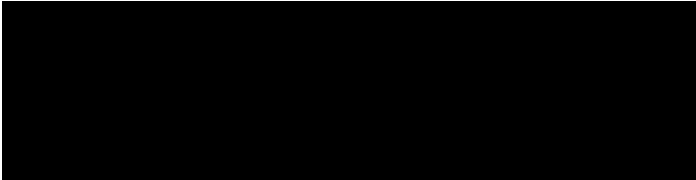
We have been informed by the Clerk to the Fillongley Parish Council that the deadline for comments on the Applicant's revised documentation is today. The Fillongley Flood Group was not formally notified about the revision to the application and, furthermore, we have only had a couple of days to find and consider the updated plans and statements. We will provide more detail in the forthcoming week - but we wanted to put you on notice to our initial concerns.

1. The revised Landscape Strategy Plan dated 6th February 2024 proposes additional planting of trees, hedgerows and shrubs on the site of the solar farm. As you are aware, the most significant problem with flooding in the village is caused by a combination of heavy rainfall and the debris that comes down the waterways into the village. Our concern for the revised proposals is that these will increase the flood risk for houses and roads in the village.
2. The revised Drainage Strategy dated November 2023 acknowledges that there will be debris which may accumulate in the new fencing and we understand that there is no plan to inspect and clear the debris on a regular basis. The Drainage Strategy also acknowledges that there may be a build up of water which will increase the water in the brook as it enters the Village.
3. The additional resilience measures proposed are inadequate. The Applicant's Consultants say that no formal surface drainage system is required to manage the surface water flow - but this will result in additional flooding in the centre of the village.
4. We are concerned that Enviromena have said that the Fillongley Flood Group has failed to engage with them - which is untrue. We have spoken to them at several Parish Council meetings and its only now, when we have received all of their documentation, that we can enter into more formal conversations with them. It is particularly interesting that they have not asked the FFG for the historical data on flooding.
5. The Fillongley Flood Group has an almost complete record of the height of the Brook over the last twelve years. We have had four severe flood events in the last six months i.e. Flood warnings beyond the initial 'Bourne Brook Rising' on

the Brook Alarm. The village relies on volunteers from the Flood Group keeping the trash screen clear so that water does not escape from the culvert into the main roads of the village or break through the culvert walls. The additional debris from the Solar Farm is a huge risk for people living in the village - and particularly those close to the Culvert'.

We are happy to meet with the Applicants and their advisors and we will respond to further details in the Revised Documentation as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely



From: [Jeff Brown](#)
Sent: 19 February 2024 08:46
To: [planappconsult](#)
Subject: FW: FW: Fillongley Solar Farm - PAP/2023/0071
Attachments: SolarFarm.docx

Further representation

Jeff

Sent: Sunday, February 18, 2024 5:51 PM
To: Jeff Brown <JeffBrown@NorthWarks.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: FW: Fillongley Solar Farm - PAP/2023/0071

Caution: Warning external email

Good Evening

Apologies I wasn't able to get this to you before the 16th.

Having been through the 'revised' plans, I still stand by my previous comments around the proposal for a solar farm in Fillongley and I still cannot support it in any way.

I've reattached my previous feedback - none of which has been eased, so please assume it all carries forward to the updated proposal too.

This should not be going ahead, for the reasons outlined - there are far more suitable places solar panels should be being set up - office buildings, houses, factories for example.

----- Original Message -----

From: "Jeff Brown" <JeffBrown@NorthWarks.gov.uk>

[\[REDACTED\].com](#)>

Sent: Thursday, 1 Feb, 2024 At 12:05

Subject: FW: Fillongley Solar Farm - PAP/2023/0071

[\[REDACTED\]](#)
We have today received amended plans for this proposal as attached
There are also amended documents attached to the case file on the website (those received on 1/2/24)

I would be grateful to receive any comments on these amendments **BEFORE 16th FEBRUARY if possible please.**

Many thanks

Jeff Brown

NWBC

Website - www.northwarks.gov.uk

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[Privacy Notice](#)

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From: [Jeff Brown](#)
To: [planappconsult](#)
Subject: FW: objection
Sent: 29/02/2024 12:32:42

Objection for PAP/2023/0071

Jeff

[REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 29, 2024 12:28 PM
To: Jeff Brown <JeffBrown@NorthWarks.gov.uk>
Subject: objection

Caution: Warning external email

[REDACTED] object to the solar panels being placed on farmland in view of my house. My question also is where the water is going to go?
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Customer Services](#)
To: [planappconsult](#)
Subject: Message from [REDACTED]
Sent: 01/03/2024 11:12:09

[REDACTED]

Email received 01/03/2024

Planning representation re: 2023/0071 Solar farm Fillongley

I have tried to use your comments box in the planning portal but it lost my submission hence this email.

I object to the application on the following grounds:-

The officers report refers to a "continued agricultural use". I can find no reference to any continued use or any condition to ensure a continued agricultural use. Usually sheep farming is mentioned but that is highly improbable and certainly is not guaranteed to be continuous. The officers statement is therefore misleading. If the Council is minded to approve the application a condition should be added to ensure a continuous agricultural use.

The quality of the land is of BMV grade and therefore highly productive. Food security and reduction in food miles is more important than a solar farm on this site. Solar panel can be installed in numerous locations whereas BMV land is static and irreplaceable. The UK population has grown from 56.33m in 1981 to 67.33m in 2021. Projected forward over the next 40 years it is likely to exceed 80m. During that time the world population will also grow. Electricity without food is of little use. There is no guarantee that the grade of the land will still be BMV at the expiration of the term which would reduce the yield capacity of the land when it's need is even more important. At the expiration of the term and in the event of the application being approved a further condition should be added to ensure the apparatus is removed by the expiration of the 40 years rather than leaving this implied. The condition should provide for a detailed plan for removal to be submitted at least 12 months before expiration of the term. This will ensure enforcement can commence, if necessary, before the term expires. This should not be an issue for the applicant as they state the installation is temporary. In regard to the temporary period of 40 years can the Council request that the applicant produce it's agreement with the landowner so that the Council and the public are aware of what options for extension of the term may have been agreed. In any event the agreement is likely to fall within part II of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954 and thus there is a right to renew

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [Jeff Brown](#)
Sent: 04 March 2024 08:48
To: [planappconsult](#)
Subject: FW: FILLONGLEY SOLAR -FINAL URGENT-
Attachments: IMG_0124 (5).jpg; FILLONGLEY Solar FEB 24 URGENT.docx;
FILLONGLEY Solar FEB 24 URGENT.docx

Representation to go onto PAP/2021/0071 please

Thanks

Jeff

Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 7:47 AM
To: jeoffbrown@northwarks.gov.uk; Jeff Brown <JeffBrown@NorthWarks.gov.uk>
Subject: FILLONGLEY SOLAR -FINAL URGENT-

Caution: Warning external email

Dear Jeff,

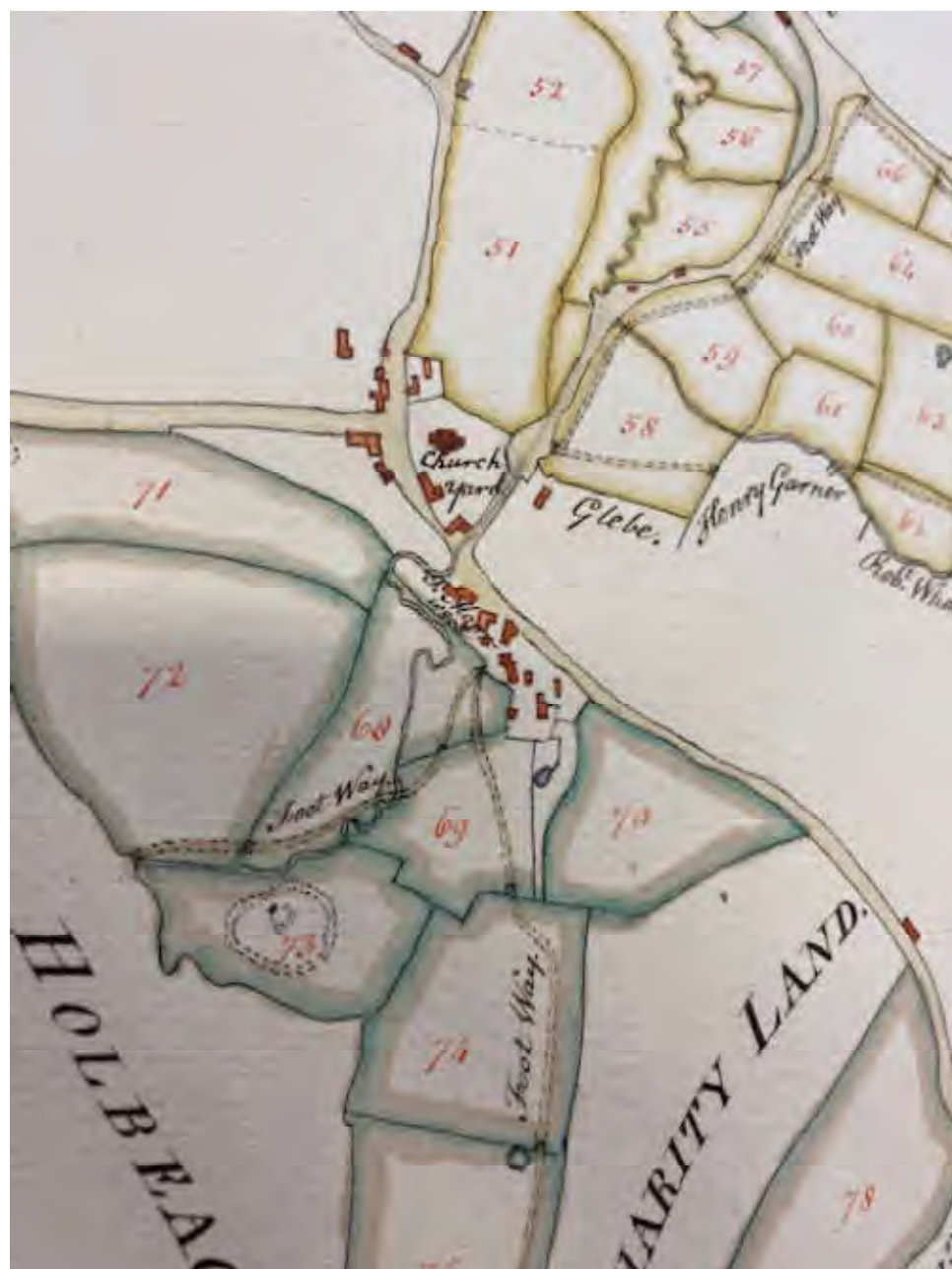
PAP/2023/0071

This is the final version of our objection which covers 1, evidence/data indicating this is unsustainable 2 heritage impacts.

We are available for any queries and will attend the planning meeting.

Kind Regards





PAP/2023/0071

Submission from Sylvia Martin, Member NORTH WARWICKSHIRE HERITAGE FORUM (Fillongley), Chartered Information Professional (CILIP/MCLIP) inc Government Information Group (GIG), Member Air Quality Peoples Chamber - Coventry & Warwickshire/West Midlands (Chair Prof R Ziarati).

This submission (objection) follows on from Fillongley Parish Council's submission (17 2 24), and Fillongley Flood Group submission (4 3 24) and contains additional current data and information from government sources. Hereby there are two aspects covered 1, Sustainability survey. A full investigative sustainability test of this project shows significant omissions, and evidence of damage therefore seriously flawed sustainability, therefore no "special circumstances" can be demonstrated. 2, Heritage impacts. Evidence of likely damage to heritage. 1 & 2, together with further information, demonstrates that this a highly flawed application.

1 SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT Apart from being Green Belt, the fact that this site is distinctly and significantly different from other solar farms receiving grants of planning permission is a key starting point. The distinction is due to the high grade agricultural land especially grade 2a, as well as 2b and 3. Additionally other key factors include the entire 'zone' within which the site sits is 'cracked open' despite being high grade prime farm land, and rare Grade 1 included. It is a significant agricultural zone. Features, such as those recognised by planning inspectors in establishing overall land value, include 'no erosion', moisture retention and drainage balance which are key factors in high crop yields especially wheat, as recorded by local farmers. This is NOT low value land, or even moderate value -it is BMV.

The site and such high yield zones play a not insignificant role in **national food security**, as supported by recent emerging policies. However, a full sustainability assessment has not been presented by the applicant, only inferring a generic argument for green energy, without the presenting the full facts for this location-the full picture. **Official government statistical sources including DEFRA and Agricultural and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB), the levy board for farmers and growers, as well as the trade boards, show UK as a NET IMPORTER OF WHEAT. Albeit there is some exporting of grain but the reducing grain production is driving up imports triggering an unsustainable trajectory.** The most important country of quality grain imported to the UK is **CANADA**, as well as **Europe**. The carbon footprint of **IMPORTING** grain is significant and rises as more grain production is taken out of the equation.

Additionally, Prof R Ziarati, Warwickshire based research centre, is an international expert on the shipping industry as a significant polluter -this cannot be ignored in the equation of importing. This is not a green project.

At this point in time, UK has paid for grain from Ukraine but it is currently held back due to the war. Furthermore, due to the Russian Ukraine war, grain prices on **the international markets** have been driven up. The net result, working it's way through the system, impacts on the consumer. **“Wheat prices remain volatile”**. Source-Wheat Market UK (Flour Millers) and **“Grain prices are now at record highs...approximately 70% higher than at previous harvest” 2022.**

With climate change factors and a growing population, especially over next 40 years, to remove wheat production (and other food production) will stress food availability. UK grain availability reports cover drought in US and state this has “... tightened global supply and demand, and pushed quotations even higher”.

UK Millers quoting AHDB , “The finalised DEFRA production figures peg the 2020 wheat crop at 9.7Mt, a drop of 6.6Mt (-40.5 %) on the previous harvest and significantly lower than the 5 year average production of 15.1Mt. In both absolute and percentage terms, this is the largest year on year drop in production since records began in 1892.” “With a 5 year average UK wheat consumption of 15.1Mt, there is a significant domestic deficit of wheat and increased imports are therefore necessary. HMRC TRADE DATA show that UK wheat imports from July to November 2020 were 1.02Mt, 54% higher than the five-year average for 2015-2018 of 0.67Mt”. (SOURCE: AHDB data 2023). **The loss of farmland contributes to this and the trajectory shows increased imports.**

This is not a ‘green project’ and the need to import, with the increased carbon footprint only results in serious lack of sustainability for this type of project at this prime agricultural BMV land location. Other urban areas are more suitable, our European neighbours eg in France are fining car park owners (80 plus cars) when solar has not been fitted. They ‘value’ agricultural land in a way we appear not to. There are many car parking spaces at Corley Services for a local but less damaging location.

It is irresponsible, not just for future generations but for the near future and current population, to grant this highly unsustainable application. There can be no special circumstances to justify removal of this land.

This application should be rejected.

OTHER QUOTATIONS

**DEFRA -OFFICIAL STATISTICS -UNITED KINGDOM FOOD SECURITY REPORT 2021-
THEME 2 UK FOOD SUPPLY SOURCES-UPDATED 5TH OCTOBER 2023.**

“Climate change poses a threat to high quality arable land”. 2.1.2 ,

“Flat line in production of all cereals likely to worsen in future due to climate change”. 2.1.6

and on land evaluation, “Food security rests ultimately....on making the best use of land types...” 2.3.1, NPPF and guidance is clear.

“Climate change impacts on yields -a significant risk to production and food security and will grow significantly over the next 30-60 years”. 2.3.3

Couple this with increased carbon footprint for imports and, shipping pollution and the matter rests with LPAs.

2 **Heritage impacts** include the possibility of increased flooding in the central village, which is FILLONGLEY CONSERVATION AREA, and is a concentration of both listed buildings, **and** non- designated heritage assets, such as village barns, all part of identity.

Please see the attached PLAN of the central village and the cluster of buildings together with special sites drawn up by an eminent surveyor in 1767. It is significant because although a couple of buildings have gone-(tudor manor burnt down, central village barn removed) it shows the main heritage cluster, with a particular and unique character as defined Fillongley Conservation Area Report 1967. Local styles include features of brickwork ‘Warwickshire detail’ and tile. Erosion at the lower parts of some of the flood impacted buildings and structures is very visible. Long term physical damage is of concern, surely covered by Planning Practice Guidance Historic Environment para 18 - defining harm -substantial or less than substantial.

The church is the central focal point -and is a key feature seen on the approach to the village from Meriden. See refs to visual impacts in the larger landscape setting.

The plan shows the stream is minimal running down the road and, as shown by GIS overlay mapping (HER/WCC) increasing in volume, over the years- as manmade features are introduced -roads, M6 run off. Historic water management shows a symbiotic relationship in past years. A tipping point has been reached, and more water flash flooding will erode the lower parts of buildings and structures -see NPPF “physical harm” is likely.

It is concerning that the applicant has not submitted run off calculations, or hydrologic and hydraulic models used to design effective stormwater strategies, and water course links, with village and heritage assets -zones of springs etc.

Various technical reports indicate some of the water falling on solar panels will infiltrate and some may run-off downslope...” **Storm water characteristics can be affected by different ground conditions including design decisions or lack of maintenance”. It is not clear what, if any, environmental guidance or specific requirements for stormwater management are required at this solar facility, and adjacent given the bigger picture. (This issue is being covered elsewhere in more detail).**

General poor and lack of coverage of heritage assets can’t be ignored. The site sits within Coventry Priory Lands, the Register at THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES E164/21, (survey in 1419), for example.

CONCLUSION

In planning policy terms, this application does not provide ANY “wider environmental benefits” by being at this location. Therefore there are “no very special circumstances” as stated in para 156 of NPPF, that justify this development. Infact in this case quite the reverse when the wider, short, medium and long term impacts are considered.

SIM

From: [Jeff Brown](#)
Sent: 04 March 2024 09:51
To: [planappconsult](#)
Subject: FW: PAP/2023/0071 - URGENT - PLANNING MEETING -4TH MARCH 2024
Attachments: Jeff Brown letter.docx; Document 1 -Timeview Telemetry 09.23 - 02.24.pdf; Document 2 & 4 - Photographs of Volunteers Clearing Culvert.docx; Document 3 - Photo of Culvert - Debris.docx; Document 5 - Culvert Debris.docx; Document 6 - Aerial Footage taken by drone of Fillongley - 20.10.23.docx; Document 7 Photo's of Fillongley Bourne Brook Catchment & Flood Alleviation.docx; Document 8 -Bourne Brook Catchment & Flood Alleviation Study July 2010 (NWBC).pdf; Document 10 - Copy of BWB Drainage Stragey -pages 14 &15 -Existin & proposed runoff rates.pdf; Document 11- Copy of BWB Drainage Strategy - page 18 - SuDs Manual schedule for swales.pdf

Representation

Thanks

Jeff



Subject: PAP/2023/0071 - URGENT - PLANNING MEETING -4TH MARCH 2024

Caution: Warning external email

Dear Mr Brown,

Please see the attached letter including enclosures in readiness for the planning meeting tonight. I should be grateful if you would confirm safe receipt.

Please note that the Fillongley Flood Group are asking for this matter to be deferred until a later planning meeting, as there appears to be a number of omissions and further enquiries will need to be made.

Yours sincerely,



Jeff Brown
Head of Development Control
North Warwickshire Borough Council
The Council House
South Street
Atherstone
CV9 1DE

4th March 2024

URGENT

Dear Sir,

PAP/2023/0071 – OBJECTION

Introduction

Further to P [REDACTED] email on 16th February 2024 we are writing on behalf of the Fillongley Flood Group (FFG) to formally set out in more detail our objections to the above planning application for a Solar Farm at Nailcote Farm.

We enclose the following evidence in support of our submission namely: -

1. A copy of the Timeview Telemetry which receives and forwards time series data and alarms at the culvert in Fillongley which are triggered by rising water levels (Sept23-Feb24).
2. Photographs of the volunteers clearing the culvert.
3. Photographs of the culvert blocked with & without debris.
4. Photographs of the volunteers clearing the culvert.
5. Photographs of the debris taken out of the culvert on 22nd February 2024.
6. Aerial footage of Fillongley taken by Drone on Friday 20th October 2023 indicating the areas that were flooded.
7. Photographs of the village in flood taken from the Bourne Brook Catchment & Flood Alleviation Study, Fillongley July 2010 (NWBC).
8. Page 12 from the Bourne Brook Catchment & Flood Alleviation Study July 2010 (NWBC).
9. Copy of the Landscape Strategy plan revised – 5th February 2024
[AttachmentShowServlet \(northwarks.gov.uk\)](http://AttachmentShowServlet(northwarks.gov.uk))
10. Copy of BWB Drainage Strategy (pages 14 & 15)– Existing & Proposed Run off rates.
11. Copy of BWB Drainage Strategy (page18)– SuDs Manual schedule for swales.

We have looked at the Applicant's Planning Statement, Addendum to the Statement, Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy and Statement prepared by BWB Consultants, the Landscape Strategy Plan as well as a number of other documents on the public portal. We have spoken to Enviromena on a number of occasions at Fillongley Parish Council (FPC) meetings. (Please note that the Applicant did not attend the FPC meeting on 15th February 2024 when the FPC were required to make a decision on Enviromena's revised plans and the FFG had hoped to raise issues with them).

Several members of the FFG also live in the centre of this Conservation Village and reside in designated heritage assets and have read the Heritage & Archaeology Assessments prepared by BWB Consultants on the portal as well.

Modelling & Data

We take issue with the Applicant's Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy in terms of both its modelling and data. For example, the Flood Risk Assessment refers to the Warwickshire PFRA and the Addendum of 2017. We note the 2017 Addendum does not reflect the flooding in the village in 2012 and 2016. Further we do not see any reference to the Bourne Brook Catchment & Flood Alleviation Study of Fillongley dated July 2010 commissioned by NWBC in the Flood Risk Assessment.

Modelling seems to be based on a 1 in hundred-year event, yet we have had floods in 1998, 2007, 2008, 2012 and 2016. Further the FFG has access to 12 years of almost complete data from The Timeview Telemetry which we are not aware the Environment Agency or Warwickshire County Council the Lead Local Authority (LLFA) have access too. The Timeview Telemetry referred to at **Document 1** records the rising water levels at the culvert by the Manor House Pub and barn (Designated heritage assets). You will see from **Document 1** that the early warning alarm alerts the Flood Groups at 0.6 maSD. The middle alarm 'Bourne is rising' is at 0.8 maSD and the critical warning alarm at 1 maSD. **Document 1** is just a snapshot of the data that the Flood Group hold (from September 23 to February 2024). You will see from **Document 1** that Fillongley has had 3 critical early warning alarm alerts between 20 October 2023 and 22nd February 2024, 4 'Bourne is rising' alarms and 12 early warnings. Major flooding to the village has been averted because volunteers from the Fillongley Flood Group have gone into the brook by the culvert at all times of the day and night to clear the trash screen of debris (illustrated by photographs at **Documents 2, 3, 4 and 5**) that is washed down the watercourses that slope through the proposed site of the Solar Farm (Flood Zone One). We also refer you to the photographs taken by drone at **Documents 6** which show the watercourses in Fillongley breaking its channels in October 2023. If the debris is not cleared away the water cannot continue down the culvert and rises thereby breaking the defence walls and flooding the village. Please see the photographs of the village in flood contained in the NWBC Bourne Brook Catchment & Flood Alleviation Study, Fillongley, North Warwickshire – July 2010 (**Document 7**).

Therefore, even a small rise in runoff together with additional debris from the development could mean that the village floods on a regular basis. The Applicant has confirmed in its Drainage Strategy that there will be an increase in runoff. However, we are not aware any account has been included in the Applicant's Flood Risk Assessment of the additional runoff from the M6 motorway. The runoff from the M6 runs downhill through the Applicant's proposed development site into the centre of the village. We have seen a number of tables including one taken from The Bourne Brook Catchment & Flood Alleviation Study page 12 (**Document 8**) which states that the M6 contributes up to eighteen percent of the overall runoff catchment in a 1 in 100-year event through to fifteen percent in a 10-year event. Clarification from BWB is clearly needed on this point as to whether any runoff from the M6 has been considered in their modelling and if so, what is the cumulative effect of runoff from both the Solar Farm and M6 Motorway. The FFG believe that the data relied upon by BWB does not give an accurate reflection of the reality of flooding in the village and raising water levels.

In addition, the FFG understands that the erection of the Solar Farm will increase the risk of flooding initially at the construction stage when the ground will have been compacted and "the trees cut down" (paragraph 8.59 of the Fillongley Solar farm Planning Statement February 2023). We are unsure from the report whether it is 30 or 300 trees due to the typo in the report. The time estimate given for the construction of the site is 3 to 6 months. However, we are aware similar projects of this scale can take up to 18 months to complete. The flood of July 2007 arose after a period of dry weather when the ground was compacted and unable to saturate the heavy rain. The FFG fear this will happen again especially as this was pointed out to us by the Flood Resilience Team at Warwickshire County Council.

Further we understand that once the site has been constructed trees and hedgerows are to be planted around the site to provide screening (Landscape Visual Appraisal and Landscape Strategy Plan). Ordinarily trees and hedgerows are helpful in preventing flooding however the planting has to be in the right place. Two watercourses run through the Solar Farm downhill and converge at the historical site of the remains of the

medieval castle and then on towards the culvert. Therefore, the revised designs (**Document 9 – Landscape Strategy plan**) put forward by the Applicant to help with screening and biodiversity create a problem, in terms of excess debris which in turn will increase the risk of flooding in Fillongley as the trash screen at the culvert collects debris (**Document 3**) and causes a build-up of water. We also understand that from time-to-time trees and foliage from the proposed development will have to be cut down so that they do not cover the solar panels.

The Applicant will argue that the interception swales as outlined in their Drainage Strategy dated November 2023 will be added to their site which will help with any runoff from the site. There is at pages 14 & 15 (**Document 10**) of their Drainage Strategy confirmation that there will be an increase in run-off although they believe that to be negligible, and the swales will assist with this. However, if the swales are blocked with debris, they have admitted at paragraph 3.17 of the Drainage Strategy that **“In the event of exceedance of the proposed swales, exceedance flows will follow the existing topography either into the nearby watercourses or off site.”** The FFG do not believe that SuDs Maintenance Schedule for Swales at page 18 (**Document 11**) of the Drainage Strategy provides adequate maintenance and monitoring. For example, removing litter and debris from the swales “once a month or as required” is too open ended and could easily lead to excessive debris entering the watercourses. As a flood group we are weekly, sometimes several times a day, clearing debris from the trash screen. Further the Applicant’s Flood Risk Assessment states at paragraph 4.6 that “the proposed fences around the perimeter of the proposed development should be designed such that water can flow freely through the fence **where possible**, particularly within the regions indicated to be at risk of flooding. They should be appropriately inspected and maintained **following flood events** especially **to prevent the accumulation of debris.**” Clearly this paragraph is a recognition that there will be debris but to suggest that the fencing should be inspected just after a flood event is a nonsense. It maybe helpful to the Applicant to inspect the fencing after a flood event but not the village. Clearly another indicator that the proposed development increases the risk of debris accumulating and increasing the risk of the village flooding on a regular basis. The debris needs to be cleared constantly not just after a flood event. We understand from the Drainage Statement that the Applicant, who is based in Reading, proposes to maintain the site. We would therefore like to know what the Applicant’s proposals are for maintaining the site. Clarification on this issue is needed from the Applicant.

We note that WCC Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) has withdrawn its objection with conditions to the development. However, we note that there was no site visit or visit to Fillongley (Flood Zone 2 or 3), by the LLFA, only consultation with BWB Consultants by email and a teleconference in July 2023. Further the Applicant has submitted revised plans in terms of planting and screening which run along the watercourse (see objections raised by FFG above) but there appears to have been no further consultation between the BWB Consultants and the LLFA. Further no consultation with the FFG was sought by the LLFA on the conditions that they have raised. Clarification on this issue is needed both from the LLFA and the Applicant.

Designated Heritage Assets

You will see from the photographs of the 2007 flood at **Document 7** that when Fillongley flooded several designated heritage assets in the Fillongley Conservation were flooded (FCA) including Little Bell Cottage, Bell Cottage, The Manor House Pub and barn. These buildings are identified in the Heritage and Archaeology Assessment as part of “the old village core” which characterises the Fillongley Conservation Village. Therefore, we disagree with the statement on page (iii) of the Heritage & Archaeology Assessment that there will be “no direct physical impact on designated Heritage assets as a result of the proposal.” These properties are to be put at risk from the increased flooding risk arising from the development, and this goes against the Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990 and in contravention of the NPPF and the North Warwickshire Local Plan.

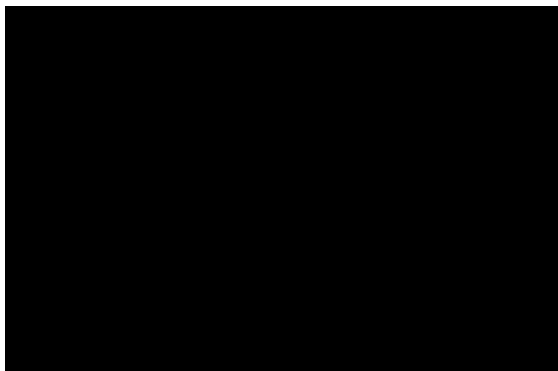
Conclusion

1. We believe that the modelling and data provide by the Applicant gives a slanted impression of the flood risk arising from the proposed development. Further there are still a number of outstanding questions remaining. We do have a site visit, which we have requested, on Monday 4th March but we do not feel that we will have adequate time to consider all the issues that may arise from the site visit or enquiries that have to be made with the LLFA. We would ask that this matter be heard in May 2024 which would allow us time to have clarification on the issues we have raised.
2. However, if you are not prepared to adjourn the planning meeting, we currently believe that the development will increase the flood risk to the village. Further we do not accept that the measures put forward by the Applicant in terms of betterment will mitigate the flood risk. There has been no offer of funding of the Timeview Telemetry for 40 years which historically has been paid for by grants from our Councillors. There has been no proposal for funding for automated trash screens including installation or alleviation ponds on site.
3. We appreciate that NWBC will benefit from 75,000 per annum in business rates from the development but there is a significant monetary effect from the increased flood risk which will affect not just the village of Fillongley but NWBC, WCC and the public services required to deal with the flooding. We are also acutely aware from high insurance rates even with the existence of Flood Re that this burden will be passed on to the taxpayer.
4. Several businesses in Fillongley that used to exist including the Post Office, Village Shop, Florist, and Hairdressers were all flooded and no longer exist. The Manor House Pub is also failing from under investment from the brewery and we can only imagine that further flooding may shut its doors forever.
5. Any increased flooding to the village will have an impact on house prices not just for the properties that have been flooded but for those houses that are affected by flood risk mapping. Furthermore, the whole village will acquire a reputation for flooding.
6. "The NPPF does not, therefore, say that it is automatic or inevitable that the wider benefits of renewable energy will always constitute 'special circumstances,' only that they **may** do so. That must mean an Applicant will still need to demonstrate that, in the specific circumstances of the site in question, those benefits clearly outweigh the damage done to the Green Belt. "(Jeremy Wright MP. KC). We would argue that the proposed development would cause damage to the Green Belt, the Conservation village as well as designated heritage assets.
7. Finally, if the planning committee have not been persuaded by our objections and those of other objectors that this site is inappropriate for the said development then we would ask that as well as the conditions imposed by the WCC (LLFA) the Applicant is subject to a section 106 agreement that Enviromena provide before work on the development commences the following:
 - a. An automated trash screen at the culvert in Fillongley;
 - b. An automated trash screen further upstream in Fillongley with advice from the WCC Flood Resilience Team;
 - c. Enters into a contractual agreement to fund for the length of the development the Timeview Telemetry;
 - d. Builds attenuation ponds on the site with advice from WCC Flood Resilience Team.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

The Fillongley Flood Group

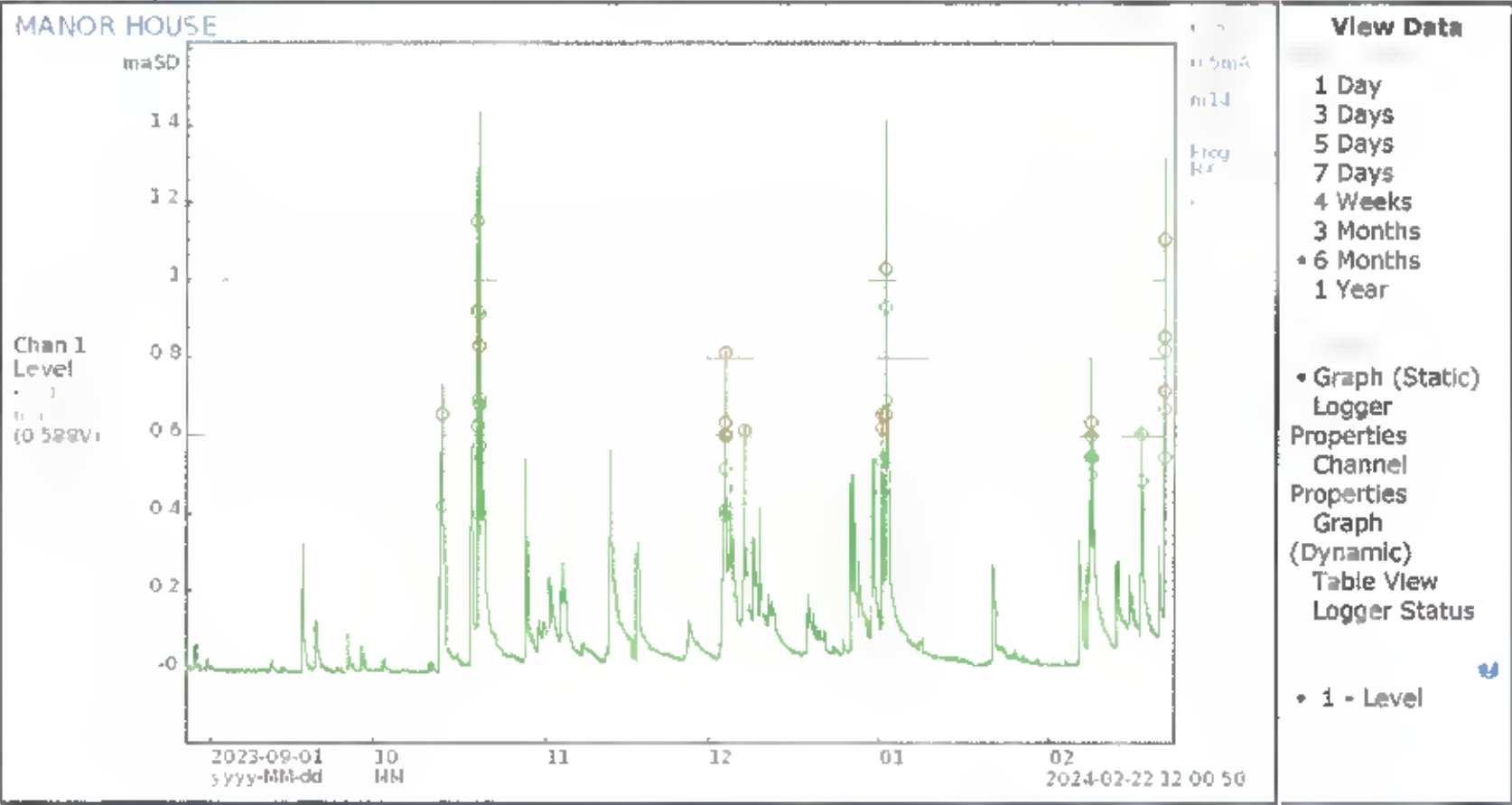


View

Daily Checkin 0800 0900



View Configuration



Account	Group	Data Number	Serial No
Fillongley	FILLONGLEY	882360001712473	203A6F

Document 2 – Photos of Volunteers Clearing Culvert





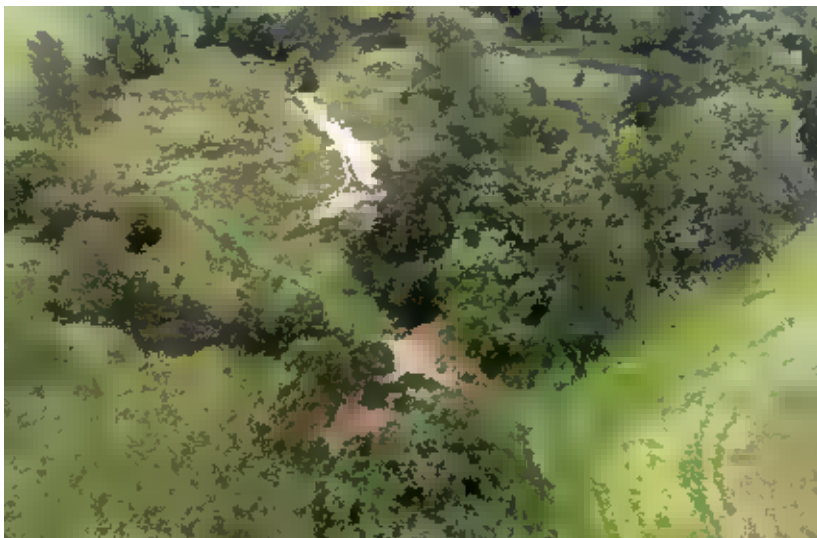
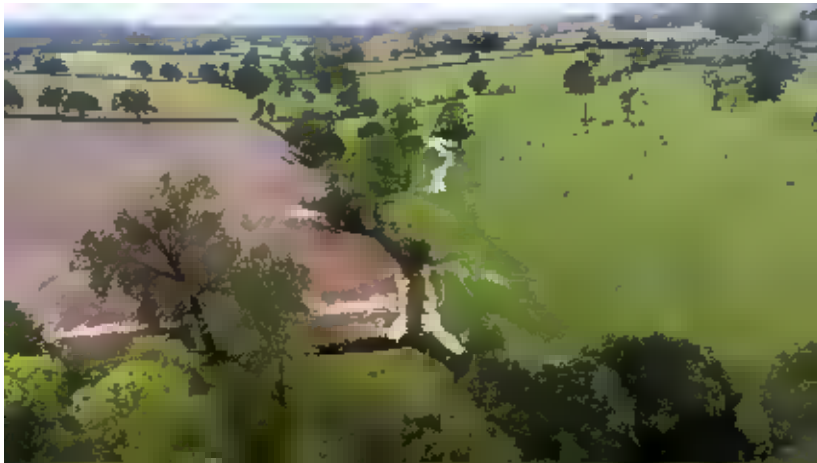
Document 3 – Photograph of Culvert Blocked with Debris

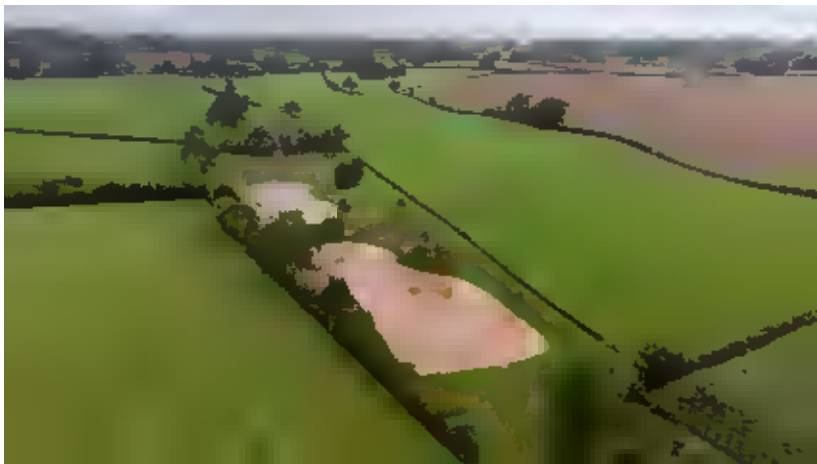


Document 5 – Debris taken out of Culvert – 22 Feb 24



Document 6 - Aerial footage taken by Drone – 20th October 2023







July 2009

Docomol 7



4 Impact of the M6 Motorway

As built construction drawings of the M6 were provided to NWBC by the Highways Agency, Management Agency Contractor for Area 9 (MAC9). At the time of request Optima were the MAC 9 agent, who has since been replaced by Amey Highways. This information has enabled more concise analysis to be undertaken of the contributing area of the M6 to the catchment.

An analysis has been carried out of the contribution to the overall catchment runoff of the M6 motorway.

	Catchment Inflows				
	100 Yr (m3/s)	75 Yr (m3/s)	50 Yr (m3/s)	25 Yr (m3/s)	10 Yr (m3/s)
Total Inflows	4.2	4	3.6	3.1	2.4
Motorway Runoff Contribution	0.76	0.7	0.62	0.5	0.37
Percentage Contribution from Motorway	18%	18%	17%	16%	15%

Table 2 – Percentage runoff contribution from M6 motorway

This table shows that the contribution from the M6 motorway is significant but it is not the main source of runoff in the catchment. The model has been simulated with a 100 year event with all of the motorway contribution removed. This was not sufficient to prevent flooding from occurring but did reduce the impact.

Recommended Action: - flood routing from the M6 should be examined in more detail. A possible solution would be to ascertain if there was sufficient space within the confines of the M6 boundary to provide a swale or pond storage system to attenuate the flows

As an alternative, negotiations should take place with the MAC 9 agent to provide a percentage of the costs towards flood alleviation works elsewhere. There is currently no legal obligation for the Highways Agency to make a contribution for motorway runoff and the right of connection to the watercourse cannot be removed.

Table 3.1: Existing & Proposed Runoff Rates

Return Period (Yr)	Existing Greenfield Runoff Rate (l/s)	Post-Development Unmitigated Runoff Rate (l/s)	Post Development Increase	
			l/s	%
1	20.4	20.5	0.1	0.5
QBAR	24.6	24.7	0.1	0.4
30	48.2	48.3	0.1	0.2
100	63.2	63.4	0.2	0.3
100 + 40%	93.7	93.9	0.2	0.2

* Calculated by multiplying Standard Annual Average Rainfall (SAAR) by 1.4 to simulate a 40% climate change uplift on rainfall intensity

- 3.24 As shown within **Table 3.1**, the post-development runoff rate, when factoring in the increased impermeable area from the ancillary equipment is anticipated to increase the QBAR rate by 0.1l/s (0.4%), the 1 in 100-year runoff rate by 0.2l/s (0.3%) and the 1 in 100-year plus 40% climate change by 0.2l/s (0.2%). Therefore the impact of developing the Site is considered to have a negligible impact on the existing runoff rate.
- 3.25 An assessment of the impacts the proposed ancillary equipment will have on the 1 in 100-year 6-hour runoff volume post-development has been undertaken. The pre- and post-development runoff volumes are compared in **Table 3.2** with the supporting calculations provided within **Appendix 6**.
- 3.26 As the proposed development area is currently entirely greenfield, the existing runoff volume has been calculated using MicroDrainage to be 12,907m³.
- 3.27 The runoff volume from the new impermeable area (i.e., 0.04ha associated with the ancillary equipment) has been calculated using an average rainfall intensity of 10.7mm/hr as calculated using FEH rainfall data within Micro Drainage, and multiplied by the impermeable area as described within **Figure 3.1**. The 100-year 6-hour rainfall profile is presented within **Appendix 7**.

$$\text{Av. Rainfall (mm/hr)} \times 6 \text{ (hours)} \times \text{Impermeable Area (m}^2\text{)} = \text{Runoff Volume (m}^3\text{)}$$

$$0.0107 \times 6 \times 387 = 25\text{m}^3$$

Figure 3.1: 1 in 100-Year, 6 Hour Runoff Volume

- 3.28 As shown in **Figure 3.1** the runoff volume from the newly introduced impermeable area is 25m³. The runoff volume from the remaining permeable portion of the proposed development area (62.16ha) has been calculated using MicroDrainage to be 12,899m³. As a result, the total post-development runoff volume is calculated to be 12,924m³.

Table 3.2: Runoff Volume Comparison

Existing Volume (m³)	Proposed Volume (m³)		Difference (m³)
	Permeable	Impermeable	
12,907	12,899	25	17

3.29 As shown within **Table 3.2** the proposed introduction of the ancillary equipment will result in an increase of surface water runoff volume during the 1 in 100-year 6-hour event by 17m³. This is an increase of approximately 0.1% of the existing conditions within the Site.

3.30 It is anticipated that any increase in surface water runoff volume leaving the site will be intercepted within the interception swales located across the site.

Interception Swales

3.31 It is proposed that the interception swales will have 1:4 internal side slopes with a maximum design water depth of 300mm. The material excavated to install the swales will be applied to the downstream edge of the features to create an earth bund. A typical cross section of the proposed interception swales is provided within **Appendix 4**.

3.32 The proposed swales have been positioned outside of Flood Zone 3 and are also not anticipated to adversely displace any existing floodplains within the Site as no level raising will be associated with the construction of the swales.

3.33 Based on the proposed dimensions of the interception swales, it is anticipated that the maximum storage capacity of the swales is approximately 0.4m³/m.

3.34 The interception storage capacity of the swales is such that an increase in runoff volume associated with the ancillary equipment will be intercepted by the proposed swales. Additionally, the inclusion of the swales within the development will act to provide a betterment to the existing surface water runoff rate and volume that will leave the Site onto surrounding land and Bourne Brook and the UOW post-development.

3.35 The inclusion of the interception swales across the development will also function as a mitigation measure to reduce the likelihood of any pollution incidents leaving the Site. As the risk of pollution incidents is more likely to occur during the construction phase as opposed to the operation of the Site, it is recommended that the swales are constructed early on during the construction phase and silt fences are utilised on the swales during the entire construction phase.

3.36 The proposed swales should be maintained throughout the lifetime of the development to reduce the risk of the features becoming less effective due to silt accumulation, litter accumulation or vegetation issues.

4. MAINTENANCE

4.1 The SuDS Manual maintenance schedule for swales, is shown in Table 4.1.

Table 4.1: The SuDS Manual Typical Maintenance Schedule for Swales

Maintenance Schedule	Typical Frequency	Required Action
Regular Maintenance	Monthly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inspect inlets, outlets, and overflows for blockages and clear if required
	Monthly (or as required)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove litter and debris, and Inspect infiltration surfaces for ponding, compaction, silt accumulation, record areas where water is ponding for > 48 hours
	Monthly (during growing season), or as required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cut grass – to retain grass height within specified design range
	Monthly for first year then as required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage other vegetation and remove nuisance plants.
	Monthly for 6 months, quarterly for 2 years then half yearly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inspect vegetation coverage
	Half yearly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inspect inlets and facility surface for silt accumulation establish appropriate silt removal frequencies
Occasional Maintenance	As required or if bare soil is exposed over > 10% of the swale treatment area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reseed areas of poor vegetation growth, alter plant types to better suit conditions if required
Remedial Action	As required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repair erosion or other damage by re-turfing or reseeded, Relevel uneven surfaces and reinstate design levels, Scarify and spike topsoil layer to improve infiltration performance break up silt deposits and prevent compaction of the soil surface Remove build-up of sediment on upstream gravel trench, flow spreader or at top of filter strip and Remove and dispose of oils or petrol residues using safe standard practices

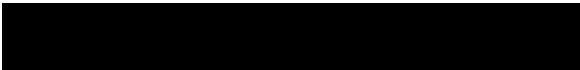

From: [Jeff Brown](#)
Sent: 02 April 2024 09:47
To: [planappconsult](#)
Subject: FW: Fillongley solar farm PAP/2023/0071

Categories: Mandy

Representation please - PAP/2023/0071

Thanks

Jeff


Sent: Friday, March 29, 2024 4:33 PM


Caution: Warning external email

I am setting out below my comments on the above application and which represent an objection on the various grounds stated and are in principally in respect of the planning statement submitted by Barton Wilmore (Stanstec).

The following points are made in respect of the paragraphs as numbered in the planning statement.

1.14. No evidence has been produced to support the statement.

2. No mention is made that the site is quite undulating. It is commonly accepted in the solar industry that the flatter the site the better. From a topographical perspective this site is unsuitable for solar arrays.

3.2 The statement makes reference to other solar applications , namely at Park Lane and Smorrall Lane in an attempt at justification for this site. However the Park Lane site comprises of only 2 hectares of grade 2 land and 9Ha of grade 3a (in total 27% of site) whilst Smorrall Lane comprises 9Ha of grade 3a (41.8%) but does have a continuing agricultural use. The application site as stated by the applicant comprises 95.61% BMV land (24.23% grade 2 and 71.37% grade 3a). To draw comparisons with these two quoted sites, given the substantial differences, is disingenuous.

3.10. The quoted example permissions are, of course, given to support this application. However the following are examples where applications on Green Belt were refused on appeal:-

Birchall Green
Swadlingcote
Maggots End

Para 4.5. The applicant states the arrays will face "south". Whilst that is correct, given both the topography of the site and the east/west layout, and that the arrays will follow the contours of the land, the arrays will also have an inclination to the east or west depending on which slope they are positioned. This raises questions of glint and glare. The Highway Authority and Highways England should be asked to reconsider their responses taking into account the likely wider spread of glint and glare. NWBC should also reconsider the Landscape and Visual Impacts.

4.11. The applicant refers to an easement to maintain watercourses and drainage ditches. Without full details it cannot be ascertained that all riparian owners have granted the necessary easement. NWBC should request full disclosure so that it is apparent that the necessary rights have been granted to maintain the full widths of the watercourses and ditches.

4.18. Without full details of the connection point and cable route the viability of the solar farm is uncertain. In addition Joules Law states the longer the cable the greater the energy losses. As to the applicant's reference to Section 17 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995, an inspection of the Government Legislation website reveals this order has been superseded by a 2015 order.

4.20. This statement is of little merit or value. Grassland or meadow is not in itself an "agricultural use" and to call strips between solar panels and also the margins a "meadow" is a misuse of the word. If there is to be a continuing agricultural use, particularly of the site within the security fencing, how would a farmer obtain access 24/7?

5.3. The statement lists various requirements but does not state how these have been complied with. It refers to this list as a "site selection methodology" (para5.4)

5.4. The applicant states "following the above site selection methodology, the Site was considered a suitable location..."

Tuning now to the selection methodology set out in para 5.3, I make the following points:-

- 1.grid connection capacity. The "nearby substation" according to a representative of the applicant is in Nuneaton and approximately 10 km distant as the crow flies. This is hardly "nearby"!
2. Avoiding energy loss. Given the distance from the Nuneaton sub station the applicant should be required to provide the calculation for the energy loss.
3. Route to connection. No details are given of the route or its affect on energy loss. Are any easements required to facilitate the cable installation? Without details from the applicant it cannot be known if the site is feasible.
4. Availability of land. Whilst the landowner may be willing to lease the land, a more robust approach to site finding is required. To identify sites, what research did the applicant undertake? For example did they inspect the brownfield registers (which should be an initial step) of all local authorities within a connection distance of the Nuneaton sub Station? Full details should be requested from the applicant as to what action they took to identify sites so no doubt exists as to why this is their preferred site especially bearing in mind that it is 95% Best and Most Versatile Land.

5.6. Paragraph 156 of the NPPF refers to "very special circumstances" (VSC) in the plural and also adds that VSC "may include" renewable energy generation. This infers that more than one instance of VSC is necessary. If only the one instance was necessary, para 156 would have read "may be" rather than "may include".

Para 5.7. Without demonstrating no other sites are available within the connection distance of the Nuneaton sub station no special circumstance exist for the use of greenbelt BMV land. In the report of Jeff Brown of November 2023, on page 3 in the last paragraph he states " BMV land is not a scarce resource in North Warwickshire". He also states "The ability to find alternative

sites of lesser soil quality to accommodate commercial scale solar developments is therefore highly constrained".

Whilst that may be true in NWBC area it ignores the fact that suitable sites may be available within the radius of 10km of the Nuneaton substation in Nuneaton and Bedworth, Coventry, Rugby or Hinckley and Bosworth council areas.

Did the applicant consult the brownfield registers of these Councils or indeed make any other efforts to identify suitable sites? Without the applicant demonstrating a satisfactory methodology to identify suitable sites it cannot be argued that Very Special Circumstances apply to this application. In this regard please see para 50 of the Inspectors decision in application reference s62a/2022/0011, land at Maggots End.

6.23 and 6.27. Para 6.23 refers to powering 10,900 homes whilst para 6.27 refers to 15,800. Which is correct? The figure of 15, 800 is also repeated on page 151 of the officers report.

6.29. Visual impact. This is a matter of opinion not fact.

6.33. This is irrelevant as the points put forward would apply to any site.

6.35. The applicant now refers to 17,100 homes! Do they not know whether it is 10,900, 15,800 or 17,100. If 47.7 mw is needed to power 10,900 presumably considerably more will be needed to power 17,100 and most likely takes the site into the criteria for NSIP and thus should be considered by the Secretary of State and not the LPA.

NWBC needs to verify the actual combined capacity of the site without relying on the conflicting figures given by the applicant.

I note that the proposed conditions do not require the applicant to prove that the installation will have a combined capacity not exceeding 49.9Mw. Therefore there is no control over the installed capacity and ensuring this application should not have been submitted to the Secretary of State.

6.43. As mentioned above (re 4.5), the inclination of the panels in dual directions needs to be brought to the attention of Highways England and WCC Highways so that they can reconsider their responses given the likely wider spread of glint and glare.

7.25. Attention is drawn to the first three paragraphs in bold type which emphasise reasons for refusing this application.

Turning now to the applicants Agricultural Land Impact Statement and in particular para 4, I understand that the High Court on 27 November 2023 ordered the Beredon Hall decision be re-determined.

I would also draw the Council's attention to the conclusions in the following Appeal Decisions:-

APP/F/1040/W/22/3313316 Lullington Swadlingcote.

Attention is drawn to para 46 wherein it stated 53.627mw is required for 17,300 homes. Contrast this. with the confusing figures quoted for Fillongley.

Also note para 48 regarding BMV land and food security.

APP/J/1860/W/23/3325112 Birchall Green Farm Hallow.

It is my opinion that NWBC has placed too much reliance on figures and information supplied by the applicant without robust verification. Given the contradictions in the documentation and the possibility this is not a matter for the LPA to decide verification should be treated as a priority.

In the light of the above I respectfully request that the Council refuse this application. I also reserve the right to make further submissions especially once I receive the details I have requested in a recent email to Mr Jeff Brown concerning this application.



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 May 2024 07:39
To: [Jeff Brown](#); [planappconsult – Planning Support Team](#); [REDACTED]
Subject: Fw: Fillongley Solar Farm - PAP/2023/0071
Attachments: processed-0CFE7E91-EC50-44EE-90C3-7A8E96A2CD33.jpeg

Categories: Mandy

Caution: Warning external email

For info.

[REDACTED]
Begin forwarded message:

On Wednesday, May 15, 2024, 6:17 AM, [REDACTED] wrote:

This is in the daily telegraph today.

Subject: Re: Fillongley Solar Farm - PAP/2023/0071

Not sure now what else we can do?

[REDACTED]
On Tuesday, May 14, 2024, 4:15 PM, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] e:

[REDACTED]
Subject: Fw: Fillongley Solar Farm - PAP/2023/0071

For info

Begin forwarded message:

On Tuesday, May 14, 2024, 3:29 PM, Jeff Brown
<JeffBrown@NorthWarks.gov.uk> wrote:

Following deferral of determination of this application in March, we have now received further plans – as additional three onsite detention basins and additional planting on the northern and eastern boundaries

The documents can be seen on our website using the above reference number and they are those received on 14 May 2024

The case will be referred back to the Board on 10 June and thus any additional comments should be with the Council before 24 May if possible

Many thanks



Jeff Brown

Head of Development
Control
North Warwickshire
Borough Council

Phone: 01827 719310

Web: www.northwarks.gov.uk

Social:



Any opinions expressed in the email are those of the individual and not necessarily those of North Warwickshire Borough Council.

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From: Jeff Brown

Sent: Friday, February 23, 2024 4:15 PM

[REDACTED] 0071

The above planning application is to be reported to the Council's Planning and Development Board on **MONDAY the 4th MARCH starting at 1830 and held here at the Council offices in Atherstone**

The agenda is now available to view on the Council's website – search Planning and Development Board and the 4th March

The applicant will have three minutes in which to speak if he chooses and objectors too will have a TOTAL of three minutes in which to speak

Instructions on how to register to speak are attached.

If there is more than one person registered to speak, please arrive early in order to decide who and how the

three minutes is to be used

The meeting will be recorded on the Council's U-Tube channel

Many thanks

Jeff Brown

Website - www.northwarks.gov.uk

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Solar energy loses out to vital food supply

Councils will be urged by ministers not to approve planning permission for solar farms on high-quality farmland as part of Rishi Sunak's drive to protect food security. A ministerial statement will be laid before Parliament today, making clear that such projects should only be given the go-ahead when absolutely "necessary". A new planning framework was meant to make the position clear, but ministers fear projects are still being approved that fall short of their demands.

Page 2

From: nlgg@northwarks.gov.uk
To: [planappconsult – Planning Support Team](#)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access
Sent: 16/05/2024 08:42:44

Application Reference No. : PAP/2023/0071

Site Address: Land 800 Metres South Of Park House Farm Meriden Road Fillongley



Submission: Objection

Comments: I strongly object a this present time there is insufficient thought to disposal of solar farm equipment, panels cannot be recycled unless batteries are separated traffic issues noise pollution the moptive for the erection of this

From: [REDACTED]
To: [planappconsult – Planning Support Team](#)
Subject: PAP/2023/0071
Sent: 16/05/2024 11:34:37

Caution: Warning external email

Good morning. With regard to the above application and in response to the new updates is it possible for someone to explain how this resolves any of the issues already raised in my previous emails regarding this. The visual effect this has is massive for us along the Coventry Road particularly my property (5 Far Parks CV7 8HS) which is only 500 mtr from the edge of the solar field. And a 150mm planting along with an 800mm hedge will not disguise this eyesore.

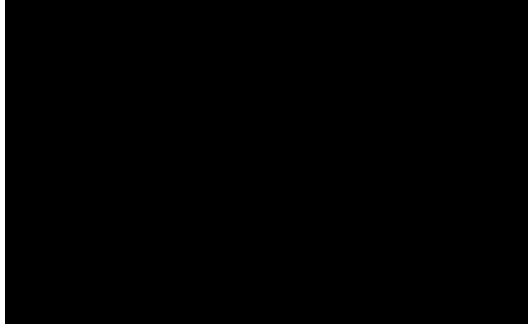
Along with this our properties were not shown on the original plans and I believe this is still the case and we are yet to get a response.

[REDACTED]

From: nlpg@northwarks.gov.uk
To: [planappconsult – Planning Support Team](#)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access
Sent: 18/05/2024 08:36:25

Application Reference No. : PAP/2023/0071

Site Address: Land 800 Metres South Of Park House Farm Meriden Road Fillongley



Submission: Objection

Comments: Whilst I am generally in favour of increasing the supply of renewable energy I believe that siting these installations on farmland and not on other suitable "brownfield " sites is a serious mistake. The land in question is a valuable farming resource and creating a solar installation here would reduce the area available for farming. I strongly oppose the siting of this proposed Solar Installation on the grounds of it removing valuable farmland which is deemed BMV. (Best and most versatile.) Food security in the 21st century is of vital importance as was highlighted in Parliament by the Energy Security Secretary Claire Coutinho who is on record as stating that solar must use brownfield sites and rooftops rather than best agricultural land. Therefore, it would be against government guidance and a folly to allow this proposal to go ahead. This proposal amounts to a short term monetary gain for the landowner and a long term detriment to the food security of the country and local community and I urge the planners to reject this proposal.

From: nlp@northwarks.gov.uk
To: [planappconsult – Planning Support Team](#)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access
Sent: 20/05/2024 22:33:39

Application Reference No. : PAP/2023/0071

Site Address: Land 800 Metres South Of Park House Farm Meriden Road Fillongley

Submission: Objection

Comments: I object to the proposed application. I am not reassured by the latest documents evaluating the impact of increased water run off/increased flooding in the centre of the village, and the lack of any comment about the impact on nesting red listed skylarks.

The report says "it is assessed that the Site's landscape character has the ability in which to absorb development of the scale and type proposed"- the undulating and elevated hillsides does not lend itself to this at all, in fact it will make it more obvious and negatively impact every approach to the village, particularly along the Meriden Road.

The application itself specifies that "the proposed solar farm will result in the loss of agricultural land, resulting in a change of character from semi-rural agricultural, to a solar farm". Agricultural land should be protected, and even more so when it is BMV land. It also falls within green belt which should be defended against inappropriate development such as this.

Only last week there was a press release following discussion in Parliament where it was stated that the best agricultural land should be prioritised for food production, as Energy Security Secretary Claire Coutinho told Parliament (Wednesday 15 May.)

In the face of heightened global instability, the government is taking steps to strengthen food security as part of the UK's national resilience.

That includes protecting Best and Most Versatile (BMV) land (which is the land proposed for this development), ensuring large solar projects avoid this higher quality land where possible. Instead, they should be developed on brownfield land, contaminated land, industrial land, and lower quality agricultural land so as not to compromise the UK's food security.

Energy Security Secretary Claire Coutinho said:

As the Prime Minister set out this week, rising threats around the world mean we must have a renewed emphasis on our security. That means protecting our food security whilst also delivering the cheap energy we need.

We are taking further steps today to make sure we can get that balance right. I want to see more solar on rooftops and where that's not possible, for agricultural land to be protected; and for the cumulative impact on local villages to be considered where they are facing a high number of solar farm applications.

This area has indeed seen a flurry of solar farm applications and approvals and this will inevitably and

permanently have a negative impact on the nature of the local villages.

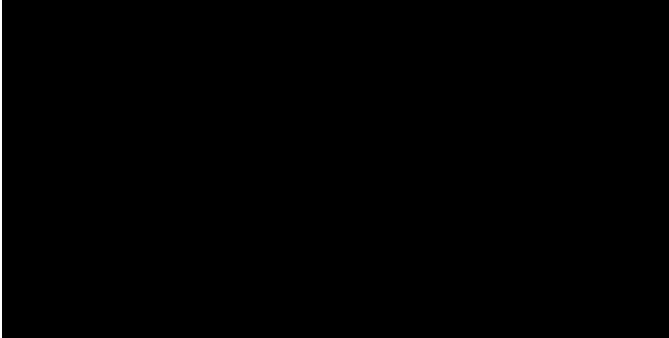
I ask you to decline this application, bearing in mind the potential impact on the integrity of the local area, and particularly when the government has declared food stability and protection of BMV farmland is vital.

Thank you.

From: nlgg@northwarks.gov.uk
To: [planappconsult – Planning Support Team](#)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access
Sent: 21/05/2024 05:39:02

Application Reference No. : PAP/2023/0071

Site Address: Land 800 Metres South Of Park House Farm Meriden Road Fillongley



Submission: Objection

Comments: I do not believe there is justification for the council to approve this farm based on this being agricultural grade and also green belt. Is there really an exceptional need for this. Also based on the demographics of the village, this will be a

Permanent development as it will out live the majority of those who have lived and grew up

In the village. Also no consideration has been given to the impact to those living on the parks development.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [planappconsult – Planning Support Team](#)
Subject: Fillongley solar farm objection PAP/2023/0071
Attachments: [Fillongley Solar Farm_Objection.docx](#); [Solar projects must fit in with food security - GOV.UK.html](#); [solar- Written questions, answers and statements - UK Parliament solar.html](#);
Sent: 21/05/2024 12:05:10

Caution: Warning external email

Dear Sir's

Please find my objections to the proposed solar farm in Fillongley along with the latest Government recommendation.

Mr J Brown BA Dop TP MRTPI
Head Of Development Control Service
The Council House
South Street
Atherstone
Warwickshire

C

CV9 1DE

Reference : PAP/2023/0071

Objection/Rejection to plan

As the government has now put all council planning decisions for the forming on good agricultural land. I believe its time to completely reject this application on the grounds that the purpose land for the Solar Farm is of good quality grade 2 to 3 and is currently holding crops.

The latest proposal for three added Duck ponds would not hold back the amount of surface water that would come off the Solar Panels as the area of the proposed is too large and on a hill.

Also the addition of planting more saplings around the north elevation will not screen this Solar Farm in till its ready for de-commissioning in forty years time as the proposed saplings to be planted are only 150MM (6") tall

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 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 overfarming
- 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 prosoal will not look to conserve, enhance, or promote the landscape
- 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 as the distance from our homes is less than 350 meters.
- Our houses are not shown on the application plan as a rouse to show no dwellings near the site
- The site will have flood lights and a 3 Meter high fence around it (like a prison)

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 \(bregroup.com\)](#)

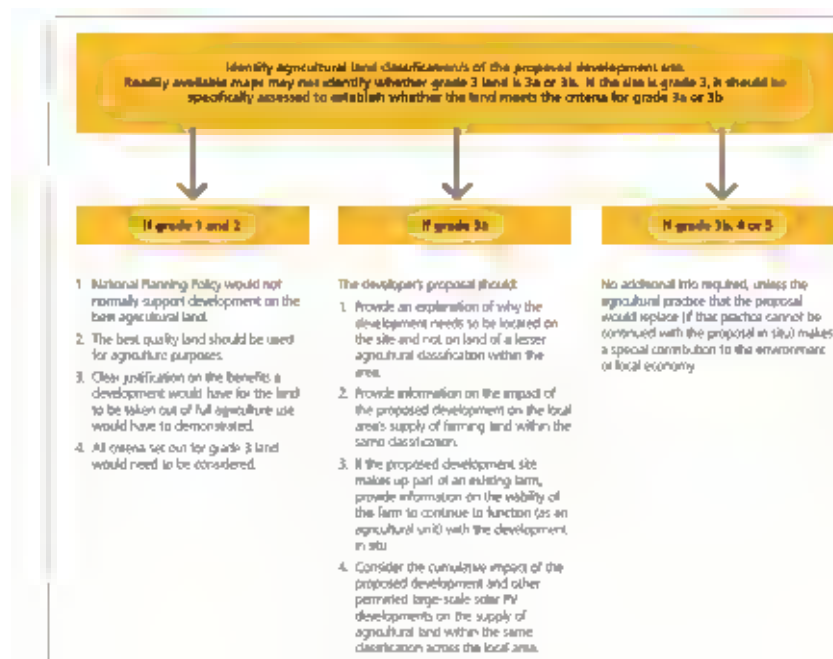
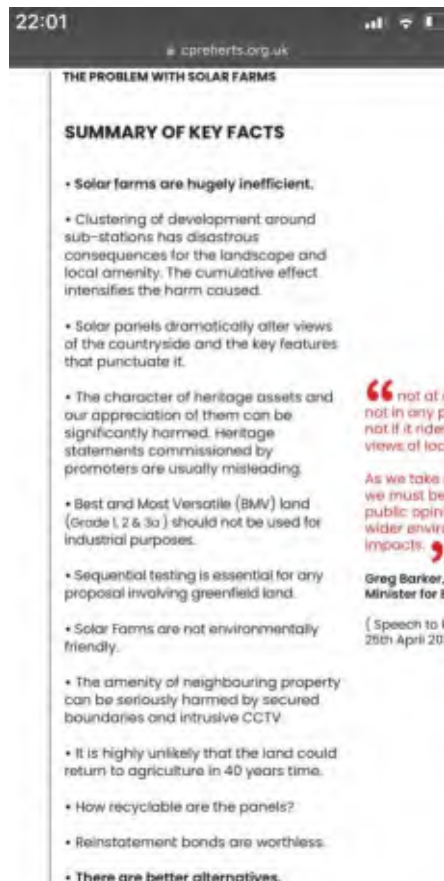


Figure 4: Steps for developers on agricultural land classification

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>

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 the 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 by 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 with 4km 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 would be delivered would only be viable for 13 years post 2050, what are the plans post this day. This shows very short term thinking.

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.

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

[Renewable and low carbon energy - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/renewable-and-low-carbon-energy)

“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;”

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

Further notes and reference articles supporting the reasons to object.

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

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 local village. This farm only benefits someone who doesn't have a direct interest in the local community

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 on 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 its greener but its 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.lw.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 should consider purchasing this land and receive the £1000 per acre revenue per year.

We 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. 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.

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 assed but is easy pf 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 note 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 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 Farm – 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 620metres

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 – PI

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 Cart shed 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

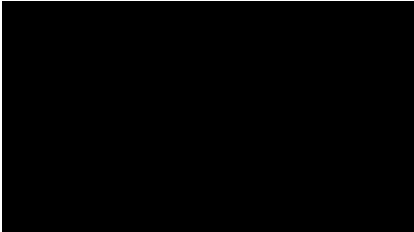
Section 4.34 - It is considered that the Site and the local landscape does not display any pronounced sense of scenic quality such that it is 'out of the ordinary' in landscape terms. Views north, east and west from the Site provide some attractive views of rolling hills, woodland blocks and farms.. Overall, the Site and its immediate context is considered to be of medium scenic value.

From: nlpg@northwarks.gov.uk
Sent: 21 May 2024 16:27
To: [planappconsult – Planning Support Team](#)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access

Categories: Mandy

Application Reference No. : PAP/2023/0071

Site Address: Land 800 Metres South Of Park House Farm Meriden Road Fillongley



Phone:

Email:

Submission: Objection

Comments: Please take note and apply the following Government paper and statement, which were published on 15th May 2024, when considering PAP/2023/0071

Solar projects must fit in with food security

Energy Security Secretary has told Parliament that with growing geopolitical tension, the best agricultural land must be protected for food security.

From:

Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, The Rt Hon Claire Coutinho MP and The Rt Hon Steve Barclay MP

Published

15 May 2024

“ Energy Security Secretary has told Parliament that with growing geopolitical tension, the best agricultural land must be protected for food security

“ solar will continue to play a key part in government’s plans for energy security and net zero, with suitable brownfield areas of lower quality land and rooftops prioritised as locations

“ government stresses that planning authorities must consider cumulative impacts where several proposals for solar projects come forward in the same area

The best agricultural land should be prioritised for food production “ Energy Security Secretary Claire Coutinho told Parliament today (Wednesday 15 May).

As the Prime Minister set out earlier this week, in the face of heightened global instability, the government

is taking steps to strengthen food security as part of the UK's national resilience.

That includes protecting 'Best and Most Versatile' (BMV) land, ensuring large solar projects avoid this higher quality land where possible. Instead, they should be developed on brownfield land, contaminated land, industrial land, and lower quality agricultural land so as not to compromise the UK's food security.

Solar power will continue to play an important role in delivering cleaner, cheaper and more secure energy with a more than 4-fold increase in solar deployment expected by 2035, up to 70GW.

To reach that goal, the Energy Security Secretary has reinforced the weight of planning policy and the need for solar to be delivered in a sensible way ensuring developers and planning authorities consider the cumulative impact solar projects can have on local communities, especially where they are facing a high volume of applications.

She also announced plans to expand the Renewable Energy Planning Database to include up-to-date data on the type of land used by existing and planned solar projects, allowing government to track use of high-quality agricultural land more easily. Entries will then provide robust information that can be considered as part of the planning process.

Energy Security Secretary Claire Coutinho said:

As the Prime Minister set out this week, rising threats around the world mean we must have a renewed emphasis on our security. That means protecting our food security whilst also delivering the cheap energy we need.

We are taking further steps today to make sure we can get that balance right. I want to see more solar on rooftops and where that's not possible, for agricultural land to be protected; and for the cumulative impact on local villages to be considered where they are facing a high number of solar farm applications.

We will make sure we reach our solar targets in a sensible way that delivers clean, cheaper energy but does not compromise our food security.

Environment Secretary Steve Barclay said:

We're committed to protecting and improving the nation's food security, alongside action that safeguards our energy security.

That's why we're ensuring our best agricultural land continues to be used for its core purpose of food production, while helping farmers expand their businesses through farming grants which will enable them to invest in rooftop solar and the generation of renewable energy on their farms.

Agricultural Land Classification Soil Surveys are currently carried out by soil consultants on behalf of developers, although the format of these can vary across projects and there isn't a specific accredited body in place to oversee this process. To ensure there is greater consistency and certain standards are always met in these surveys, the government is exploring options to introduce an independent certification scheme. This should ensure that data is recorded and presented in a more consistent and objective way helping government more closely monitor how agricultural land is being classified.

The government is taking pressure off the countryside and away from the country's best agricultural land by making it easier to deploy rooftop solar. Recent changes to permitted development rights will cut red tape and make it easier and cheaper to put solar panels on the rooftops of commercial buildings - including on farm buildings, warehouses, factories and carparks.

Earlier this year, the government also launched the second round of the Improving Farm Productivity grant, making between £15-25 million available to farmers for the installation of rooftop solar and other equipment to help farms reduce fossil fuel use and improve their energy resilience.

Solar remains a British success story with around 16GW deployed across the UK – 99% of which was installed since 2010. As of December 2023, over 1.2 million homes have solar PV installed. According to government data, there were more than 160,000 domestic installations in 2023, the most in a calendar year since 2015.

The government has also made it cheaper for solar panels to be installed on homes and charitable buildings, which currently benefit from a zero rate of VAT until March 2027.

Further plans to roll out more solar across social housing and the public sector will be set out in the upcoming Solar Roadmap – helping more schools, colleges, hospitals, and other buildings supply themselves with clean and cheap solar power:

– see today's Written Ministerial Statement: Solar and protecting our Food Security and Best and Most Versatile (BMV) Land:

Solar and protecting our Food Security and Best and Most Versatile (BMV) Land

Statement made on 15 May 2024

Statement UIN HCWS466

Statement made by

Claire Coutinho

Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero

Conservative

East Surrey

Commons

Statement

Food security is an essential part of national security. This Government is fully committed to delivering robust UK food security and recognises its paramount importance to our national security. This is reflected in our commitment to maintain the current level of food we produce domestically. Heightened geopolitical risk has brought this into sharper focus and we think it is more important than ever that our best agricultural land is protected and our food production prioritised.

Similarly, we have seen our energy security threatened following Putin's illegal invasion of Ukraine with the government spending over £40bn to pay up to a half of people's energy bills. We are combatting this by racing ahead with deployment of renewable energy; nearly half of our electricity today is produced from renewables which is up from only 7 percent in 2010. Solar power is a key part of the Government's strategy for energy security, net zero and clean growth. This position was reinforced in the new National Policy Statement (EN-3), published in January this year, which stated that –Solar also has an important role in delivering the government's goals for greater energy independence and the British Energy Security Strategy states that government expects a five-fold increase in combined ground and rooftop solar deployment by 2035 (up to 70GW)–.

Government recognises that, in some instances, solar projects can affect local environments which may lead to unacceptable impacts for some local communities. The planning system is designed to balance these considerations against the need to deliver a secure, clean, green energy system for the future.

Protecting the Best Agricultural Land

The new National Policy Statement that we published in January makes clear that ‘applicants should, where possible, utilise suitable previously developed land, brownfield land, contaminated land and industrial land. Where the proposed use of any agricultural land has been shown to be necessary, poorer quality land should be preferred to higher quality land avoiding the use of ‘Best and Most Versatile’ agricultural land where possible. The Government in Powering Up Britain: Energy Security Plan clarified that while ‘solar and farming can be complementary’ developers must also have ‘consideration for ongoing food production.’

Nevertheless, in balancing both the need for energy security and food production, we are concerned that as large solar developments proceed at pace, more of our ‘Best and Most Versatile’ (BMV) land could be used for solar PV instead of food production. I am therefore setting out further detail about how our policy on balancing these competing priorities is intended to be applied.

As is outlined in the National Policy Statement, the starting position for solar PV developers in taking forward Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects is that applicants should seek to minimise impacts on the best and most versatile agricultural land (defined as land in grades 1, 2 and 3a of the Agricultural Land Classification) and preferably use land in areas of poorer quality.

The National Policy Statement can also be a material consideration in determining applications under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and is broadly consistent with the approach to agricultural land in the National Planning Policy Framework which states that ‘Where significant development of agricultural land is demonstrated to be necessary, areas of poorer quality land should be preferred to those of a higher quality. The availability of agricultural land used for food production should be considered, alongside the other policies in this Framework, when deciding what sites are most appropriate for development.’

This means that due weight needs to be given to the proposed use of Best and Most Versatile land when considering whether planning consent should be granted for solar developments. For all applicants the highest quality agricultural land is least appropriate for solar development and as the land grade increases, there is a greater onus on developers to show that the use of higher quality land is necessary. Applicants for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects should avoid the use of Best and Most Versatile agricultural land where possible.

For Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects, including those already in the system, the National Policy Statement and from today this WMS are likely to be important and relevant considerations in the decision making process. The Government will keep under review the evidence base underpinning the National Policy Statement published in January.

Addressing Cumulative Impacts

While the total area of agricultural land used for solar is very small, and even in the most ambitious scenarios would still occupy less than 1% of the UK’s agricultural land, we are increasingly seeing geographical clustering of proposed solar developments in some rural areas, such as in Lincolnshire. When considering whether planning consent should be granted for solar development it is important to consider not just the impacts of individual proposals, but also whether there are cumulative impacts where several proposals come forward in the same locality.

In parallel, my Department will be expanding the Renewable Energy Planning Database to include additional information on the types of agricultural land used by existing solar projects and those in the planning pipeline. This will enable us to carefully monitor the use of land by renewable projects in all regions of the UK.

Improving Soil Surveys

The Government has heard concerns about the perceived inaccuracy and unfairness of soil surveys undertaken as part of the planning process for solar development. The Government will address this by supporting independent certification by an appropriate certifying body, subject to relevant business case approval, to ensure Agricultural Land Classification Soil Surveys are of a high standard, requiring surveyors to demonstrate meeting an agreed minimum requirement of training/experience. We will also seek to ensure consistency in how data is recorded and presented, so that reports on agricultural land classification are consistent, authoritative and objective.

Supporting solar on rooftops and brownfield sites

Finally, I want to highlight that increasing the deployment of rooftop solar remains a priority for Government. The installation of qualifying energy-saving materials, including solar panels, in residential accommodation and buildings used solely for a relevant charitable purpose currently benefits from a zero rate of VAT until March 2027, at which point they will qualify for the reduced rate of VAT at 5%. At the Autumn Statement 2023, the 100% First Year Allowance for main rate plant and machinery assets, and the 50% First Year Allowance for special rate plant and machinery assets, including solar panels, were made permanent. These measures complement the business rates exemption for eligible plant and machinery used in renewable energy generation and storage introduced in 2022.

This year, UK Government launched a new package of measures to support British farming. Under the second round of the Improving Farm Productivity grant, between £15-25 million was made available for the installation of rooftop solar and other equipment to help farms reduce fossil fuel use, improve their energy resilience, and accelerate progress towards net zero.

We also unlocked a key barrier for large-scale commercial rooftop solar, including on farm buildings, through changes to permitted development rights (PDRs) under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. Concurrently, we introduced a new PDR allowing for the installation of solar canopies in non-domestic car parks.

We will shortly be delivering the Future Homes Standard which will set the energy performance of new homes and is due to come into force in 2025. Our consultation proposals setting out the proposed technical detail of the standard demonstrated the effectiveness of rooftop solar in reducing energy bills for consumers with solar panels. For non-domestic buildings, the Future Buildings Standard consultation proposed significant amounts of rooftop solar which is also expected to drive the use of solar power on warehouses and commercial buildings.

Additionally, social housing and the public sector both offer excellent opportunities to fit solar on homes and reduce bills. As such, we plan to explore further how to ensure that social landlords can provide solar to their tenants, and work across government to help schools, colleges, hospitals, and other buildings to supply themselves with solar power.

Further information on these initiatives will be set out in the upcoming joint government/industry Solar Roadmap.

I am making this statement with support from my Rt. Hon. Friends the Secretaries of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

From: [Jeff Brown](#)
To: [planappconsult – Planning Support Team](#)
Subject: FW: Fillongley Solar Farm - PAP/2023/0071
Sent: 22/05/2024 09:01:04

Representation

Thanks
Jeff

To: Jeff Brown <JeffBrown@NorthWarks.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Fillongley Solar Farm - PAP/2023/0071

Caution: Warning external email

Dear Mr Brown

Thank you for keeping us updated on the solar installation application. I have studied the board's report and outcome and appreciate the careful consideration taken.

However, I still believe that the scale of the development is far too large for the landscape setting into which it will be placed.

The general consensus appears to be that the development does not fit the current landscape. This is evidenced by the significant efforts proposed to screen and hide the solar panels and equipment from view. If the development were truly fitting and beneficial to the local area, such measures would not be necessary.

Additionally, this project may set a dangerous precedent for future developments. Allowing this solar farm could lead to further construction in North Warwickshire due to its advantageous location for connectivity to substations and the national grid. This could result in continued encroachment on our natural landscapes.

The local area and residents will gain nothing from this project. Only the developers and landowner will profit, without having to live with the deterioration of the landscape around them. Granting this application will be a loss to the local community.

Thank you for considering my objections.

Many thanks

On 14 May 2024, at 15:14, Jeff Brown <JeffBrown@northwarks.gov.uk> wrote:

Following the deferral of determination of this application in March, we have received further amended plans. They can be viewed on the website using the above reference and they are the documents received on 14 May 2024.

They include three on-site detention basins and additional planting on the northern and eastern boundaries.

It is proposed to refer the matter back to the Board on 10 June and thus any revised comments would be welcomed before 24 May

Many thanks

Jeff Brown

<image001.jpg> Head of Development Control
North Warwickshire Borough
Council

Phone: 01827 719310

Web: www.northwarks.gov.uk

Social: [<image002.png>](#)

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From: Jeff Brown

Sent: Friday, February 23, 2024 4:10 PM

Subject: FW: Fillongley Solar Farm - PAP/2023/0071

The above planning application is to be reported to the Council's Planning and Development Board on **MONDAY the 4th MARCH starting at 1830 and held here at the Council offices in Atherstone**

The agenda is now available to view on the Council's website – search Planning and Development Board and the 4th March

The applicant will have three minutes in which to speak if he chooses and objectors too will have a TOTAL of three minutes in which to speak

Instructions on how to register to speak are attached.

If there is more than one person registered to speak, please arrive early in order to decide who and how the three minutes is to be used

The meeting will be recorded on the Council's U-Tube channel

Many thanks

Jeff Brown

Website - www.northwarks.gov.uk

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From: [Jeff Brown](#)
To: [planappconsult – Planning Support Team](#)
Subject: FW: FW: Fillongley Solar Farm - PAP/2023/0071
Attachments: [image005.png](#); [image001.jpg](#); [image002.png](#); [image003.jpg](#); [image004.png](#); [image005.png](#); [image006.png](#); [image007.jpg](#);
Sent: 22/05/2024 09:03:50

Representation

Thanks

Jeff

Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2024 8:44 AM
To: Jeff Brown <JeffBrown@NorthWarks.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: FW: Fillongley Solar Farm - PAP/2023/0071

Caution: Warning external email

Good morning Jeff. Thank you for the update. Having looked at the new proposed plan it does nothing to change my objection to the Solar Farm. I fully understand the reason for retention ponds and there use. However they do little to reduce the water volume flow. Best wishes,

On Tue, 14 May 2024, 15:05 Jeff Brown, <JeffBrown@northwarks.gov.uk> wrote:

Following deferral of determination of this application at the 4th March Planning Board meeting , the applicant has submitted further plans – the addition of three detention basins within the site and additional planting along the northern and eastern boundaries. The documentation can be viewed on our website using the planning reference PAP/2023/0071 – they are the documents received on 14 May.

These amendments will be referred to the Planning Board on 10 June and thus any comments should be with us preferably before the 24 May

Many thanks



Jeff Brown
Head of Development Control
North Warwickshire Borough Council

Phone: 01827 719310

Web: www.northwarks.gov.uk

Social:     

 THRIVE

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Website - www.northwarks.gov.uk
Follow us on X - [North_Warks_BC](#)

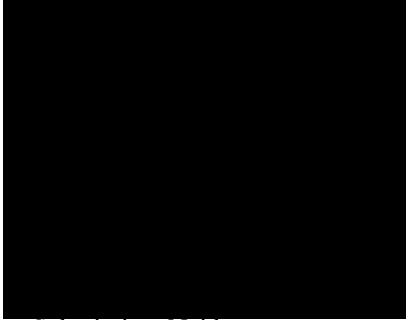
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From: nlgg@northwarks.gov.uk
To: [planappconsult – Planning Support Team](#)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access
Sent: 23/05/2024 09:47:16

Application Reference No. : PAP/2023/0071

Site Address: Land 800 Metres South Of Park House Farm Meriden Road Fillongley



Submission: Neither

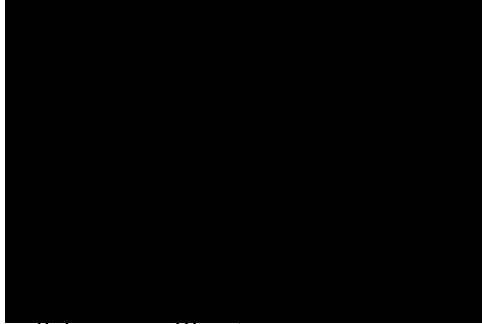
Comments: I still feel that the use of prime farmland is not the right place for a solar farm. This is prime greenbelt land and should not be used as an electric grid. The problems this will cause with the flooding problems in Fillongley do not need to be added

to.Farmland is at a premium and as such should be used to grow crops and food especially with the changes with the climate.

From: nlpg@northwarks.gov.uk
To: [planappconsult – Planning Support Team](#)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access
Sent: 23/05/2024 15:48:09

Application Reference No. : PAP/2023/0071

Site Address: Land 800 Metres South Of Park House Farm Meriden Road Fillongley



Submission: Objection

Comments: recent Government guide line recommendations completely go against this application, Applications should be overruled if they use prime agricultural land, which this is, This land as been farmed and maintained for hundred's of years. Alternative sites are available, the current changes to the application are only cosmetic and do not mitigate the removal of sustainable food production land. Dismiss this application on these grounds alone

From: nlpg@northwarks.gov.uk
To: [planappconsult – Planning Support Team](#)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access
Sent: 23/05/2024 23:16:03

Application Reference No. : PAP/2023/0071

Site Address: Land 800 Metres South Of Park House Farm Meriden Road Fillongley



Submission: Objection

Comments: I am still objecting to the planning application and amendments, solar panel farms should not be on farmland. Farmland is vital for food production we import 40 % of food and this country in these uncertain times need to be looking at boosting food production so that we can once again be self sufficient. It is also concerning that this large scale plan is very near to a lovely village and it will be a blot on the landscape rather than benefiting the village as solar power is not very efficient as its weather reliant.

From: [Jeff Brown](#)
To: [planappconsult – Planning Support Team](#)
Subject: FW: Fillongley Solar Farm - PAP/2023/0071
Sent: 24/05/2024 16:18:49

Representation please

Thanks

Sent: Friday, May 24, 2024 3:46 PM
To: Jeff Brown <JeffBrown@NorthWarks.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Fillongley Solar Farm - PAP/2023/0071

Caution: Warning external email

Dear Mr Brown,

Thank you for your email of 14th May 2024. Since the Planning Board was deferred on 4th March 2024 I confirm that the Fillongley Flood Group instructed an independent Hydrologist, GWP, on 15th March 2024. The Fillongley Flood Group has also met on 9th and 23rd March, 16th April and 21st May to discuss the above solar farm application. We also attended the site visit with the LLFA and Enviromena (the Applicant) on 18th March 2024. We forwarded the LLFA's letter of 3rd April to our Hydrologist on 5th April and the Applicant's email of 9th April to our Hydrologist on 16th April. The Hydrologist reviewed all the papers and local plans and he referred us to the WCC Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and he felt that the Applicant did not seem to understand the baseline (existing) level of flood risk in or adjacent to the site. He also felt that the LLFA had failed to take into account that the Applicant should be looking at "betterment" sections 3.6.3 and 5.2.5 of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy. However in order to respond fully we have been waiting for sight of the revised Drainage Strategy and Flood Risk assessment which only became available to review 10 days ago on the planning portal.

Unfortunately our Hydrologist confirmed only yesterday that he is now unable to prepare a report in time for the planning board due to the volume of his work commitments. He has recommended another Consultant who has dealt with over 100 solar farm applications and we have instructed him this morning. I am due to speak to him again at the beginning of next week. I am sorry that we are unable to provide you with our own expert evidence by today. We hope you will take on board that we are a small community action group that is made up on volunteers that have been trying to source and pay by way of fundraising for independent expert advice on this matter as we feel so passionately about this application. We are not

prepared to accept the advice of the LLFA as GWP pointed out that they have failed to take into account their own Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.

The Fillongley Flood Group are not hydrologists nor civil engineers and therefore until we have had the advice we cannot respond in full to the latest revised plans on the planning portal. We do not wish to be difficult but we simply cannot take this matter further until we have had a response from the Consultant.

We are not familiar with the planning process but would it be possible to list the above application to be heard in July when we should have received the report from our expert.

Kind regards,

----- Original Message -----

From: JeffBrown@NorthWarks.gov.uk

Subject: Fillongley Solar Farm

I am aware that your Group has recently been engaged with both the applicant and the LLFA since the March Planning Board meeting. That resulted in a site meeting and an additional response from the LLFA – as attached.

The applicant as you are aware, has now gone “further” with his proposals and has added three new detention basins within the site together with updating the FRA. I was waiting to hear from you in that respect.

As it happens, the applicant has now formally submitted these further amendments – they can be found on our website using the planning reference PAP/2023/0071 – the documents received on 14 May.

I am carrying out a further round of consultation on these amendments with a view to reporting them to the Planning Board on 10 June.

I would therefore appreciate your response and reaction following your last letter of 4 March.

I would ask please that your response is received in good time so as to be included in the written report – preferably before 24 May. If comments are received after this date, they will be reported verbally to the meeting.

Many thanks


Jeff Brown

Head of Development Control

North Warwickshire Borough Council

Phone: 01827 719310

Web: www.northwarks.gov.uk

Social: 

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From: nlpg@northwarks.gov.uk
To: [planappconsult – Planning Support Team](#)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access
Sent: 25/05/2024 14:28:14

Application Reference No. : PAP/2023/0071

Site Address: Land 800 Metres South Of Park House Farm Meriden Road Fillongley

Phone:

Email:

Submission: Objection

Comments: The fact that this planning application references that this is temporary is quite absurd, on this basis any new construction could be said to be temporary. Therefore, I would suggest this should be resubmitted as a permanent feature.

Clearly I understand the need for renewal and green energy and that the UK requires to compromise on planning and the environment to achieve this. This however, does not make sense given the low return for the amount of greenbelt land which is being proposed to be temporarily used for these purposes.

As discussed above, I would object to this in either case for the natural beauty and nature of the land at present. There would appear to be much more worthwhile schemes already being approved by the government which would provide wholesale change to the UK current energy make up.

From:

To:

Subject:

Sent:

[Jeff Brown; planappconsult – Planning Support Team;](#)

Re: Resubmission OBJECTION TO PLANNING APPLICATION Ref:
PAP/2023/0071

26/05/2024 17:35:41

Caution: Warning external email

Hi Jeff/ Planning

After reviewing the changes proposed to the Solar farm in Fillongley, although I recognise the key 2 changes proposed to screening and flood mitigation, I'd like to comment

- The additional screening wouldn't mitigate anything extra to the village, seems very little effort has been provided here by the proposed solar farm which has such a huge impact to the current farming landscape.
- Flood mitigation the effectiveness should still be checked by an independent hydrologist, there is no evidence that the additional offering would resolve the flooding issue to Fillongley village.

I reiterate my original objections that haven't been addressed in any way, I thereby still strongly OBJECT to the proposed solar farm

Loss of good quality agricultural land

I refer you to the Government Written Ministerial Statement dated 25th March 2015 which says in the light of continuing concerns about the unjustified use of high quality agricultural land, "... we want it to be clear that any proposal for a solar farm involving the best and most versatile agricultural land would need to be justified by the most compelling evidence."

In the applicant's soil study report it shows both 2A and 2B soil quality and In fact none of the land is rated as grade 4 (poor quality) or grade 5 (very poor quality).

The fields in question are mainly grade 2 so not to lose 150 acers of grade 2 soil is all the more important. Losing good to very good quality agricultural land is not the most efficient use of this site and wholly contrary to paragraph 123c of the NPPF. Paragraph 5.10.8 of the Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1), so readily quoted in the planning application, says applicants should "preferably use land in areas of poorer quality (grades 3b, 4 and 5)".

Paragraph 170 of the NPPF states "Where significant development of agricultural land is demonstrated to be necessary, areas of poorer quality land should be preferred to those of a higher quality". This 150 acre development is neither necessary nor is it situated on poorer quality land.

I also ask the council to check the field classification submitted by the applicant and commission an independent survey. This land has been crop farmed for many years and should remain agricultural land.

Detrimental change to the character of open fields and farmland

The character of this area surrounding Fillongley village is one of open fields dotted with housing surround and overlooking the development proposal. The solar farm will dominate the area and change the character of this part of the countryside.

I have no objection to small sensitively placed solar farms dotted around the area that are occasionally glimpsed which we already have 2 in development, 1 in Arley and 1 in Corely by the motorway services. This would mean 3 solar farms far too close together ruining a large section of the north Warwickshire countryside. However this enormous installation of this new proposal by Fillongley will blight this highly coveted countryside. This will be industrialisation of farm land/ countryside that will be lost for at least 40 years and maybe forever.

Impact on setting of nearby housing

The application site is surrounded by many houses around the village and surrounding area surrounding on two sides of the proposed solar panels. The proposal is on a hill overlooking the village so there is no escape from the view of the solar panels, it will be impossible to hide with hedges and existing trees, in particular visible during winter months. Whilst generally there is no right to a private view in planning, where the scale of the development is so big, as is the case with this 150 acre proposal, the overall impact on the attractiveness of the area for the occupiers of these homes and the general public is a material planning consideration. To have adjacent fields filled with hundreds of solar panels will dominate their environment and render the homes unattractive places to live. This would likely have an impact on housing prices with house buyers coming to the village and paying the house price premiums for the views of the surrounding countryside.

Solar panel sun light reflection towards onlooking houses will be an issue for those panels on the side of the hill facing Fillongley village in particular Coventry road, the panels angle will reflect sun light towards the Coventry road houses.

Increased risk of flooding

There is a long history of flooding around these fields. In particular water run off from the M6 coming through the proposed land and into the village. It is undeniable that structures such as the solar panel supports expected to be into the ground 1.5 -2 meters down in the ground, foundations for fences and other impervious equipment will result in less land that can take up excess water. The existing fields are regularly ploughed and this helps let rainwater soak down through the surface. This flooding mitigation will be lost if covered in panels and the areas around the solar panels are likely to become trodden down from being used for maintenance access (or by sheep grazing) and are less likely to soak up water. The panels will deviate heavy downpours and result in a greater risk of flooding.

Any increase in the risk of flooding is unacceptable given the current problems in the area flooding many houses and the Manor public house in the middle of the village.

Insufficient public benefits/mitigation to over the harm caused

The applicant puts forward no initiatives in support of the application for Fillongley Village residents. No mention is made of the fact these vast open fields are used by by Red Kites, Buzzards and owls among many birds of prey. Kites are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the loss of such a large area of their natural hunting ground will impact on their numbers. With no biodiversity improvements, there is no mitigation of the harm the solar farm will cause to the local bird of prey in particular the Kite population.

For example;

- Sheep grazing is suggested but there are no details or guarantees this activity would happen and overgrazing can lead to soil erosion. Using good quality agricultural land for sheep grazing is a waste. More details should be provided over how the grass will be cut and maintained rather than relying on sheep.
- No mention of bird of prey such as Owl boxes, beehives, bat and dormouse boxes which would be welcomed we would expect the current agricultural activity to incorporate these as a matter of good practice.
- The proposed to only change current screening a small amount will not work– you can see between trees and hedges, particularly during the autumn and winter months.
- No improvements or financial benefit be compensation of the solar farm Impact to the area or reduce energy costs to residents.
- Materials of solar panels can have potential hazards, there are no provisions in the application in the evnt of damage.

Risk of the farm land not being reinstated

There are no assurances by the applicant that reinstatement of land would occur after the 40 year lease and no insurance policy or bond would be purchased to ensure the reinstatement of the land. The reinstatement of the land will be a costly exercise and an enormous risk should the company go bust. It is imperative the works to remove all the equipment is costed and put into a bond so the council can ensure the land is reinstated should the company go into liquidation or not have the finances after the planning consent expires. Without this the removal of the equipment will be unenforceable.

Kind Regards

From: Jeff Brown <JeffBrown@NorthWarks.gov.uk>

Sent: 29 February 2024 12:23

Subject: RE: Resubmission OBJECTION TO PLANNING APPLICATION Ref: PAP/2023/0071

Representations that we have received are referred to in the report that the Board will consider on Monday night when it looks at this case

The report is available to look at on our website – either using the planning reference as above, or search Planning and Development Board and then 4th March

Jeff Brown

Sent: Thursday, February 29, 2024 11:10 AM

To: planappconsult <planappconsult@NorthWarks.gov.uk>;

Subject: Re: Resubmission OBJECTION TO PLANNING APPLICATION Ref: PAP/2023/0071

Caution: Warning external email

As a resident living in Fillongley who will be impacted by the proposed solar farm, I'd like to share my objections directly with you.

I hope you consider the impact to both the green belt and residence of Fillongley when making your decision on Monday night's planning review of the solar farm.

Kind Regards

Sent: 12 February 2024 12:18

To: plannappconsult@northwarks.gov.uk <plannappconsult@northwarks.gov.uk>

Subject: Resubmission OBJECTION TO PLANNING APPLICATION Ref: PAP/2023/0071

I wish to reregister my objection to this planning application in the strongest possible terms of concerns and effects on Fillongley village and its surrounding areas.

Whilst I acknowledge the climate challenges facing our planet and the need to increase the sustainability of our energy production across the UK this application for a huge solar farm will engulf the area and cause demonstrable harm to our

countryside and agriculture land. It proposes very little by the way of community benefit to mitigate this harm.

I therefore OBJECT for the following reasons:

Loss of good quality agricultural land

I refer you to the Government Written Ministerial Statement dated 25th March 2015 which says in the light of continuing concerns about the unjustified use of high quality agricultural land, "... we want it to be clear that any proposal for a solar farm involving the best and most versatile agricultural land would need to be justified by the most compelling evidence."

In the applicant's soil study report it shows both 2A and 2B soil quality and In fact none of the land is rated as grade 4 (poor quality) or grade 5 (very poor quality).

The fields in question are mainly grade 2 so not to lose 150 acers of grade 2 soil is all the more important. Losing good to very good quality agricultural land is not the most efficient use of this site and wholly contrary to paragraph 123c of the NPPF. Paragraph 5.10.8 of the Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1), so readily quoted in the planning application, says applicants should "preferably use land in areas of poorer quality (grades 3b, 4 and 5)".

Paragraph 170 of the NPPF states "Where significant development of agricultural land is demonstrated to be necessary, areas of poorer quality land should be preferred to those of a higher quality". This 150 acre development is neither necessary nor is it situated on poorer quality land.

I also ask the council to check the field classification submitted by the applicant and commission an independent survey. This land has been crop farmed for many years and should remain agricultural land.

Detrimental change to the character of open fields and farmland

The character of this area surrounding Fillongley village is one of open fields dotted with housing surround and overlooking the development proposal. The solar farm will dominate the area and change the character of this part of the countryside.

I have no objection to small sensitively placed solar farms potted around the area that are occasionally glimpsed which we are already have 2 in development, 1 in Arley and 1 in Corely by the motorway services. This would mean 3 solar farms far to close together ruining a large section of the north Warwickshire countryside. However this enormous installation of this new proposal by Fillongley will blight this highly coveted countryside. This will be industrialisation of farm land/ countryside that will be lost for at least 40 years and maybe forever.

Impact on setting of nearby housing

The application site is surrounded by many houses around the village and surrounding area surrounding on two sides of the proposed solar panels. The proposal is on a hill

overlooking the village so there is no escape from the view of the solar panels, it will be impossible to hide with hedges and existing trees, in particular visible during winter months. Whilst generally there is no right to a private view in planning, where the scale of the development is so big, as is the case with this 150 acre proposal, the overall impact on the attractiveness of the area for the occupiers of these homes and the general public is a material planning consideration. To have adjacent fields filled with hundreds of solar panels will dominate their environment and render the homes unattractive places to live. This would likely have an impact on housing prices with house buyers coming to the village and paying the house price premiums for the views of the surrounding countryside.

Solar panel sun light reflection towards onlooking houses will be an issue for those panels on the side of the hill facing Fillongley village in particular Coventry road, the panels angle will reflect sun light towards the Coventry road houses.

Increased risk of flooding

There is a long history of flooding around these fields. In particular water run off from the M6 coming through the proposed land and into the village. It is undeniable that structures such as the solar panel supports expected to be into the ground 1.5 -2 meters down in the ground, foundations for fences and other impervious equipment will result in less land that can take up excess water. The existing fields are regularly ploughed and this helps let rainwater soak down through the surface. This flooding mitigation will be lost if covered in panels and the areas around the solar panels are likely to become trodden down from being used for maintenance access (or by sheep grazing) and are less likely to soak up water. The panels will deviate heavy downpours and result in a greater risk of flooding.

Any increase in the risk of flooding is unacceptable given the current problems in the area flooding many houses and the Manor public house in the dip of the village.

Insufficient public benefits/mitigation to over the harm caused

The applicant puts forward no initiatives in support of the application for Fillongley Village residents. No mention is made of the fact these vast open fields are used by by Red Kites, Buzzards and owls among many birds of prey. Kites are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the loss of such a large area of their natural hunting ground will impact on their numbers. With no biodiversity improvements, there is no mitigation of the harm the solar farm will cause to the local bird of prey in particular the Kite population.

For example;

- Sheep grazing is suggested but there are no details or guarantees this activity would happen and overgrazing can lead to soil erosion. Using good quality agricultural land for sheep grazing is a waste. More details should be provided over how the grass will be cut and maintained rather than relying on sheep.
- No mention of bird of prey such as Owl boxes, beehives, bat and dormouse boxes which would be welcomed we would expect the current

agricultural activity to incorporate these as a matter of good practice.

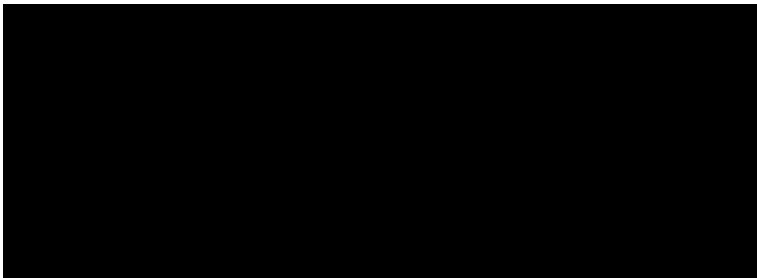
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- Materials of solar panels can have potential hazards, there are no provisions in the application in the evnt of damage.

Risk of the farm land not being reinstated

There are no assurances by the applicant that reinstatement of land would occur after the 40 year lease and no insurance policy or bond would be purchased to ensure the reinstatement of the land. The reinstatement of the land will be a costly exercise and an enormous risk should the company go bust. It is imperative the works to remove all the equipment is costed and put into a bond so the council can ensure the land is reinstated should the company go into liquidation or not have the finances after the planning consent expires. Without this the removal of the equipment will be unenforceable.

For all the above reasons this enormous ill-conceived development is wholly unacceptable and I urge the Council to refuse planning permission.

Yours sincerely,



Date: 12/2/24

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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.

From: [Jeff Brown](#)
To: [planappconsult – Planning Support Team](#)
Subject: FW: Resubmission OBJECTION TO PLANNING APPLICATION Ref: PAP/2023/0071
Sent: 29/05/2024 08:54:45

Representation please

Thanks

Jeff

Sent: Sunday, May 26, 2024 5:36 PM
To: Jeff Brown <JeffBrown@NorthWarks.gov.uk>; planappconsult – Planning Support Team <planappconsult@NorthWarks.gov.uk>; c [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Resubmission OBJECTION TO PLANNING APPLICATION Ref: PAP/2023/0071

Caution: Warning external email

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Kind Regards

From: Jeff Brown <JeffBrown@NorthWarks.gov.uk>

Sent: 29 February 2024 12:23

Subject: RE: Resubmission OBJECTION TO PLANNING APPLICATION Ref: PAP/2023/0071

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The report is available to look at on our website – either using the planning reference as above, or search Planning and Development Board and then 4th March

Jeff Brown

[REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 29, 2024 11:10 AM
To: planappconsult <planappconsult@NorthWarks.gov.uk>;
[REDACTED] brown <JeffBrown@NorthWarks.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Resubmission OBJECTION TO PLANNING APPLICATION Ref: PAP/2023/0071

Caution: Warning external email

[REDACTED]

As a resident living in Fillongley who will be impacted by the proposed solar farm, I'd like to share my objections directly with you.

I hope you consider the impact to both the green belt and residence of Fillongley when making your decision on Monday night's planning review of the solar farm.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED] *****

[REDACTED]
Sent: 12 February 2024 12:18
To: plannappconsult@northwarks.gov.uk <plannappconsult@northwarks.gov.uk>

Subject: Resubmission OBJECTION TO PLANNING APPLICATION Ref:
PAP/2023/0071

I wish to reregister my objection to this planning application in the strongest possible terms of concerns and effects on Fillongley village and its surrounding areas.

Whilst I acknowledge the climate challenges facing our planet and the need to increase the sustainability of our energy production across the UK this application for a huge solar farm will engulf the area and cause demonstrable harm to our countryside and agriculture land. It proposes very little by the way of community benefit to mitigate this harm.

I therefore OBJECT for the following reasons:

Loss of good quality agricultural land

I refer you to the Government Written Ministerial Statement dated 25th March 2015 which says in the light of continuing concerns about the unjustified use of high quality agricultural land, "... we want it to be clear that any proposal for a solar farm involving the best and most versatile agricultural land would need to be justified by the most compelling evidence."

In the applicant's soil study report it shows both 2A and 2B soil quality and In fact none of the land is rated as grade 4 (poor quality) or grade 5 (very poor quality).

The fields in question are mainly grade 2 so not to lose 150 acers of grade 2 soil is all the more important. Losing good to very good quality agricultural land is not the most efficient use of this site and wholly contrary to paragraph 123c of the NPPF. Paragraph 5.10.8 of the Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1), so readily quoted in the planning application, says applicants should "preferably use land in areas of poorer quality (grades 3b, 4 and 5)".

Paragraph 170 of the NPPF states “Where significant development of agricultural land is demonstrated to be necessary, areas of poorer quality land should be preferred to those of a higher quality”. This 150 acre development is neither necessary nor is it situated on poorer quality land.

I also ask the council to check the field classification submitted by the applicant and commission an independent survey. This land has been crop farmed for many years and should remain agricultural land.

Detrimental change to the character of open fields and farmland

The character of this area surrounding Fillongley village is one of open fields dotted with housing surround and overlooking the development proposal. The solar farm will dominate the area and change the character of this part of the countryside.

I have no objection to small sensitively placed solar farms potted around the area that are occasionally glimpsed which we already have 2 in development, 1 in Arley and 1 in Corely by the motorway services. This would mean 3 solar farms far too close together ruining a large section of the north Warwickshire countryside. However this enormous installation of this new proposal by Fillongley will blight this highly coveted countryside. This will be industrialisation of farm land/ countryside that will be lost for at least 40 years and maybe forever.

Impact on setting of nearby housing

The application site is surrounded by many houses around the village and surrounding area surrounding on two sides of the proposed solar panels. The proposal is on a hill overlooking the village so there is no escape from the view of the solar panels, it will be impossible to hide with hedges and existing trees, in particular visible during winter months. Whilst generally there is no right to a private view in planning, where the scale of the development is so big, as is the case with this 150 acre proposal, the overall impact on the attractiveness of the area for the occupiers of these homes and the general public is a material planning consideration. To have adjacent fields filled with hundreds of solar panels will dominate their environment and render the homes unattractive places to live. This would likely have an impact on housing prices with house buyers coming to

the village and paying the house price premiums for the views of the surrounding countryside.

Solar panel sun light reflection towards onlooking houses will be an issue for those panels on the side of the hill facing Fillongley village in particular Coventry road, the panels angle will reflect sun light towards the Coventry road houses.

Increased risk of flooding

There is a long history of flooding around these fields. In particular water run off from the M6 coming through the proposed land and into the village. It is undeniable that structures such as the solar panel supports expected to be into the ground 1.5 -2 meters down in the ground, foundations for fences and other impervious equipment will result in less land that can take up excess water. The existing fields are regularly ploughed and this helps let rainwater soak down through the surface. This flooding mitigation will be lost if covered in panels and the areas around the solar panels are likely to become trodden down from being used for maintenance access (or by sheep grazing) and are less likely to soak up water. The panels will deviate heavy downpours and result in a greater risk of flooding.

Any increase in the risk of flooding is unacceptable given the current problems in the area flooding many houses and the Manor public house in the dip of the village.

Insufficient public benefits/mitigation to over the harm caused

The applicant puts forward no initiatives in support of the application for Fillongley Village residents. No mention is made of the fact these vast open fields are used by Red Kites, Buzzards and owls among many birds of prey. Kites are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the loss of such a large area of their natural hunting ground will impact on their numbers. With no biodiversity improvements, there is no mitigation of the harm the solar farm will cause to the local bird of prey in particular the Kite population.

For example;

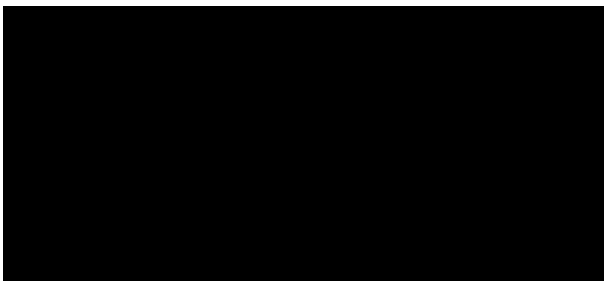
- Sheep grazing is suggested but there are no details or guarantees this activity would happen and overgrazing can lead to soil erosion. Using good quality agricultural land for sheep grazing is a waste. More details should be provided over how the grass will be cut and maintained rather than relying on sheep.
- No mention of bird of prey such as Owl boxes, beehives, bat and dormouse boxes which would be welcomed we would expect the current agricultural activity to incorporate these as a matter of good practice.
- The proposed to keep current screening will not work– you can see between trees and hedges, particularly during the autumn and winter months.
- No improvements or financial benefit be compensation of the solar farm Impact to the area or reduce energy costs to residents.
- Materials of solar panels can have potential hazards, there are no provisions in the application in the event of damage.

Risk of the farm land not being reinstated

There are no assurances by the applicant that reinstatement of land would occur after the 40 year lease and no insurance policy or bond would be purchased to ensure the reinstatement of the land. The reinstatement of the land will be a costly exercise and an enormous risk should the company go bust. It is imperative the works to remove all the equipment is costed and put into a bond so the council can ensure the land is reinstated should the company go into liquidation or not have the finances after the planning consent expires. Without this the removal of the equipment will be unenforceable.

For all the above reasons this enormous ill-conceived development is wholly unacceptable and I urge the Council to refuse planning permission.

Yours sincerely,





Date: 12/2/24

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issued on 13 May emphasising the need to ensure food security over solar. The Council's attention is also drawn to paragraph 181 and footnote 62 of the NPPF regarding preserving BMV land. Generally BMV land once lost cannot be replaced. Non BMV land is in the majority nationally and should, if necessary, be preferred to BMV land for solar installations. The use of BMV land for agriculture is the most efficient use of such land. Also the trend, as a consequence of climate change, to wetter weather in the planting season highlights the need to ensure we retain BMV land for food production. These reasons alone outweigh the applicants assertions of very special circumstances.

A.2. Solar.

As mentioned the application now states the maximum inverter capacity to be 40,500kw being the output to the grid, whilst the panel combined capacity is 48.894Mw. From information supplied by the applicants it is clear this does not maximise the efficient use of the site. The applicants states it proposes to install 71,904 panels having an output of 680w per panel. Panels of greater output are available. Therefore this is not an efficient use of the site.

As the Council is aware it has approved installations with a total capacity of 68Mw. A general rule of thumb is that 400-1000 homes require 1Mw of power. Therefore there is currently within NWBC sufficient renewable energy to power between 27,200 and 68,000 homes. As the number of residential units in NWBC is 27850 there is no urgent need for a renewable energy installations of this size. Consequently there are no "very special circumstances".

Nationally the daily output required is circa 65-70Gw. Ofgem have recently confirmed there is a connection queue of 701Gw and that that could rise to 800Gw by the end of 2024. Ofgem state this would be 4 times more than the predicted requirement for 2050. Consequently there is over capacity and no need for this installation, especially bearing in mind the BMV classification of the site.

The only conclusion to be drawn is that this application is an unnecessary waste of prime agricultural land.

B. Community garden

The application makes reference to part of the site becoming a "community garden". No detail has been given as to maintenance responsibility for the garden or what happens to it whenever the planning permission expires, or what rights of access the community will have and at what times.

C. Site selection.

I would also again draw attention to the applicant having failed to show a reasoned and thorough site selection process. This site is 10km as the crow flies from the Nuneaton sub station. This is considered to be an exceptionally long distance for a solar installation, 3-5km being considered the desirable distance to avoid losses in transmission (in this regard see para 5.3 of the applicants Planning Statement concerning avoiding energy loss where they admit a site must be located close to a substation to avoid transmission losses. This site is not close to a substation).

A radius of 10km from the sub station should have been properly investigated for alternative sites by the applicant before it submitted this application. Failure to adequately investigate sites within this radius and lying also within the areas of adjoining local planning authorities should carry great weight. Its failure to do so is a material consideration. The applicant has failed to demonstrate that this site is the only site for such an installation. In this respect the Council's and committee's attention is drawn to para 78 of the Inspector's decision letter (REF APP/J1860/W23/3325112 -

Birchall Green) where in the absence of a site selection paper (as is also absent in this application) identifying suitable (or otherwise) sites, the Inspector held "there is no adequate evidential basis to justify this particular location" The appeal was refused. This application should also be refused as there is no evidential basis for selecting this site. If this application is refused and the applicant were to appeal, an appeal is likely to fail on this ground alone.

The inference drawn from the application is that the applicant was offered a site and then sought to make a case to support it without providing any evidence based elimination process in support. The applicants has not confirmed it has an agreement to connect to the substation and without any confirmation of a right to connect this application is purely speculative.

D. Panel orientation.

Contrary to the applicants drawings and wording the panels do not face south only.

They will also be orientated to the east or west dependant on which side of the slopes they lie.

This has an impact on both the visual impact, drainage and glint and glare. None of the reports on these aspects take this into account.

E. Cable connection.

The cable route has not yet been agreed with National Grid (NG) or the appropriate Distribution Network Operator (DNO). The route is likely to be a minimum of 9km. This implies the cable will be laid across country rather than within the highway. At present, therefore, the number of any necessary easements/wayleaves from landowners/tenants is unknown and a timescale cannot be given. Also the cost of obtaining such consents is not known and may affect the viability of this site. This has an impact on the applicant being able to qualify for authorisation to proceed with the proposal and connect to the grid. The applicants should be requested to confirm if, or when, it will satisfy the criteria to pass Gate 1 of TMO4+ and subsequently Gate 2. TMO4+ criteria satisfaction governs whether or not this application will be given a place in the queue for connections to the grid. Without certainty this application is speculative.

Cost of cable installation. This depends on length and Kva rating of the cable (the longer the cable and the higher the rating the more expensive it becomes) and has a bearing on viability of the proposal. As mentioned this application is unusual in the long distance between the site and the substation. Also connection cable is to be of 33Kva, which is not the least expensive or lowest in transmission losses and therefore has repercussions for financial viability of the project, which has not been demonstrated, and its efficiency. It is an established fact that the longer a cable is the greater the transmission losses become. Most solar sites are within 3-5km of a substation. This site is more than twice this distance at approximately 0-10 km. The applicants should be required to provide the loss figure.

The applicant refers to permission for laying the cable to be pursuant to the GPDO 2015 schedule 15. However I understand it is usual for NG/DNO to require an applicant to obtain planning permission.

The application is for a period of 40 years. However the cable once laid will remain in place beyond 40 years. This application, therefore, has consequences beyond the supposed temporary period of 40 years.

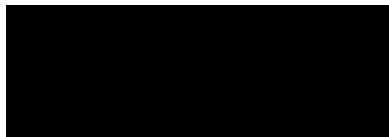
The cable route is not known but is likely to be at least 9-10km long and will most likely pass under mainly agricultural land. That in itself will lead to damage to the environment and disturbance of flora and fauna. Hedgerows and trees will be lost and affected land temporarily

taken out of production and reinstatement may lead in a reduction in BMV quality. Land within 3m either side of the cable trench will be sterilised permanently. Without any assessment, the affect on bio-diversity is unknown but could potentially negate the BNG claimed for the site. By separating the site application from the cable a holistic approach cannot be taken in respect of this application and it's wider implications on the environment.

F. Flooding

The reports on drainage and flood risk presented by the applicant are misleading as they contain inaccurate information. The documentation suggests that all the panels are on a level site and thus rainwater will drain from the whole length of the lowest side. However a great number of the panels will lie in 2 planes as they will follow the slopes on the site. Thus whilst all panels will face south some will also incline to either the east or the west. As a consequence rainwater will drain from the lowest corner producing a pooling effect. As this aspect has not been considered by the applicants, and the possible affect this may have on flooding taken into account, this application should be refused.

In view of the above this application, which is superficial, speculative and lacking in essential detail, should be refused.



From: [Jeff Brown](#)
Sent: 08 July 2024 14:09
To: [planappconsult – Planning Support Team](#)
Subject: FW: the proposed site for the solar farm in North Warwickshire

Further representation for PAP/2023/0071 – thanks

Jeff

Sent: Monday, July 8, 2024 12:49 PM

Subject: the proposed site for the solar farm in North Warwickshire

Caution: Warning external email

Good afternoon, Gentlemen,

I am writing, on behalf of Central England Air Quality People's Chamber, to inform you that the proposed site for the solar farm in North Warwickshire is a high-grade Agricultural Land. As you are aware the Government planning guidance says Best Most Versatile land should be retained for Food Security. The proposed site is high grain yields area. We in the UK import 40% plus of grain from Canada. You are aware that shipping emissions are very high.

The average GHG emissions from shipping has been around 900 million tonnes per year since 2007 (1). The IMO and the EU strategies were expected to reduce shipping CO2 emissions by up to 1.3 gigatonnes per year against the business-as-usual scenario. To put this in context, the Third IMO GHG Study 2014 estimated global CO2 emissions to be 35.64 gigatonnes in 2012 (2). Despite extensive efforts the GHGs emitted from shipping is actually on the rise (3). For IMO and the EU strategies to work the governments need to reduce shipping freights wherever possible.

Basic calculations show that the propose solar farm is not a 'green' project as the outputs of site are reduced by grid being 10k away and there are many warehouses and new barns where roof top solar is available in 10k radius of grid. Retaining the site as a high-grade agricultural land farm would help reduce the shipping marine fuels (primarily diesel) and harmful pollutions as well as GHGs.

[1] https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/250_IMO%20submission_Talanoa%20Dialogue_April%202018.pdf

²IMEchE COP26 paper – Ziarati and co - <https://www.marifuture.org/Publications/Papers/imeche-transport-hierarchy-report.pdf>

³Ziarati et al (2017) - https://www.marifuture.org/Reports/Development-Papers/ADP_06_2020_MARIFUTURE.pdf

Our chamber members are keen to engage in discussions with you about a more suitable site for the solar farm. We have several projects where we are promoting solar energy use.

Best wishes,

Professor Dr Reza Ziarati BSc (Eng), PhD (Eng), Cert Ed, CMechE, CElecE, CMarEng, CEng, FIMechE, FIET, FIMarEST

Chair - IMarEST Midland Branch



Immediate Past Chair - IMechE Midland Region



Chair – Central England Air Quality People's Chamber (CE-AQPC)



E-mail: [REDACTED]

Chair - Centre for Factories of the Future

General Coordinator - MarEdu

Chair - University Centre Garden City

General Coordinator - MariFuture

Senior Partner - Berkeley House

Websites: www.c4ff.co.uk; www.marifuture.org; www.maredu.co.uk;
www.berkeley-house.co.uk; www.bahcesehir.ac.uk; www.inspire-group.org
www.cwairquality.com

Main Address: Centre for Factories of the Future, Berkeley House, 6 The Square,
Kenilworth, Warwickshire CV8 1EB, United Kingdom

KEY OMISSIONS & MISLEADING INFORMATION -FILLONGLEY SOLAR

PAP2023/0071 - 8 7 2024

LOCATION FACTS -TOPOGRAPHY, LANDSCAPE AND HERITAGE

The site is on **NORTH WARWICKS RIDGE** , and much of it on the highest part of the ridge. **NB The ridge is 145-150 m above sea level towering above Fillongley village at only 115m above sea level. This fact is ignored.** The visual intrusion is obvious, and the height of panels referred to only as another detail. It is misleading to report this only “moderate harm”.

The ridge is visible FROM the historic village CONSERVATION AREA beyond undulating hills. SEE PHOTOGRAPHS -even in full leaf of summer the ridge is obvious. Part of the village setting-this is not ‘fleeting’ views. And, views to the village also being significant. This key fact has been ignored in ‘openess’ of Green Belt and landscape impacts-planning report /applicant suggesting ‘moderate harm’ only.

The site is the significant WATERSHED, within the country from which water flows either north and south. North to the village.

LCA -LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT, has not been provided in full. No representation from HER- HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD at WCC has been given. There is considerable data, supporting information and expertise which should have been consulted -an important resource in guiding locations for solar. Whilst archaeology have apparently no objection until results of any survey are they aware of 10k excavations and associated works-for connections/cables etc in due course

‘Glint and Glare’ comments ignore overall, location, height, especially dual angle and undulating base line. Topography overall is ignored.

HERITAGE SITES

The solar site is adjacent to the FILLONGLEY **CONSERVATION AREA** -to north the historic sites inc Norman castle ruins and adjacent castle jousting ground. Heritage research is poor. No reference has been made to COVENTRY PRIORY LANDS part of the site history and being sited to next - to south-heritage buildings/non designated heritage assets. Full transcriptions of the records circa dates pre 1000 and 1080 are available.

ECOLOGY Whilst the ecology report of WCC is valuable, especially reference to impact on skylarks, the excavation of 10 k for CABLING AND RELATED WORKS to the grid in NUNEATON across countryside is has NOT been taken onto account, although this is implied consequence of the site. Such important details are not made clear. This route will be longer if road route is used.

KEY FACT RE GRADE OF LAND OMITTED It is acknowledged that NPPF wording protects high grade agricultural land and this site is infact **95% best most versatile** -when totalled. The full facts ie totalling again not put forward. The level of Grade 2 land on this site is more significant than another Warwicks site which was 'called in' by Sec of State-Warwick District, so we'd expect an opportunity to ensure facts are presented.

NWBC should be embracing the rare high grade agriculture land in national context -vital for future food security, jobs and farming. It's responsible role is omitted.

NAILCOTE FARM is in Solihull, (borders Coventry/Warwick District) this solar land is **not** part of a local farm project although there is significant supply of warehouse and barn roofs in the area -and closer to the grid 10k distance. **There are therefore no special circumstances because not only is there over supply for solar as confirmed several times at a legal conference on Energy Renewables in North Warks, recently.**

OFGEM also confirmed OVER SUPPLY.

Prof R Ziarati, Coventry Warwickshire Air Quality PEOPLES CHAMBER and is an international expert on world shipping emissions. He confirms shipping emissions are getting worse. Further reduction in reducing grain production in UK adds to 40% of grain imported to UK, mostly from CANADA. Government sources/former MP North Warks report also grain ordered from UKRAINE has not reached UK -add to this climate change -poor European harvests. There is no case to approve this application.

FAILED PLANNING PROCESSES

There is NO evidence of robust and reasoned site selection in order to justify this site. Systematic investigation within the Nuneaton grid area 10k

away from this site, therefore 10k radius yields a wealth of warehouse and logistic centre roofs, barns/new farm buildings. Brownfield registers not consulted.

The full implications of 10k cabling and associated works to THE GRID are unclear, no licence appears to be granted.

40 years is not temporary and latest government guidance indicates extensions to this period can be granted. Whilst arguments have been made that these solar panels will be light excavation, associated works-see above are not. Academic studies indicate that high grade land for solar cannot be returned to it's former quality.

TECHNICAL Elsewhere recently reported -inefficient output and not as declared ie 40mw not 49mw. Drainage also 'expert' reported elsewhere.

From: [Jeff Brown](#)
Sent: 08 July 2024 14:12
To: [planappconsult – Planning Support Team](#)
Subject: FW: KEY OMISSIONS & MISLEADING INFORMATION -SOLAR
FILLONGLEY
Attachments: OMISSIONS SOLAR 8 7 2024.docx

Categories: Mandy

Another representation for PAP/2023/0071

Thanks

Sent: Monday, July 8, 2024 1:23 PM
To: Jeff Brown <JeffBrown@NorthWarks.gov.uk>; Mark Simpson

ATION -SOLAR FILLONGLEY

Caution: Warning external email

I have reviewed latest applicant details, OFGEM info, and planning report. The key omissions and misleading information are as attached.