

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Cleve Hill Solar Park](#)
Subject: Open Floor Hearings: application to speak
Date: 12 June 2019 14:33:59

Dear Sir/Madam

Further to your letter of 7th June regarding the Examination timetable and process, Swale Friends of the Earth would like to apply to speak at Open Floor Hearing 1 on the morning of 16th July at the Alexander Centre, Faversham. We are also available to speak at the 2nd Open Floor Hearing on the evening of 22nd July at Hempstead House, Sittingbourne, if that is more convenient for the examination timetable and your agenda.

We would like to make an oral representation based on our submission in January this year:

- our support in principle for this proposal based on: the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to address climate change; the need for a significant scaling up of renewable energy capacity in order to do this most cost-effectively; the important role therefore that large utility-scale solar projects like this play; the need for co-sited battery storage for maximum efficiency and the move to a smart, modern and reliable grid; knock-on benefits for green jobs.
- no objections on visual, landscape, noise, safety or heritage grounds
- support for taking the proposed site out of agricultural use because of the wildlife and biodiversity benefits this will have and the potential for large solar farms to have a net benefit for wildlife
- concern that the proposed design, with its unusual 8 degree orientation, will create a roof-like structure that may not achieve the potential benefits for flora and fauna - lack of information on this, what guarantees and safeguards can be put in place and need of more data on the benefits of reduced chemical inputs

We have no special needs at the hearing.

Representatives from our group would also like to attend, just as observers, the other Open Floor Hearing and the Issue Specific Hearings on Need, Landscape and Biodiversity. I would be grateful if you could confirm if this is possible.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Anna Stanford
Coordinator
Swale Friends of the Earth