

Cleve Hill Solar Park Project Development Consent Order application

Summary of Submission for Issue Specific Hearing on Landscape and Visual Impact Appraisal on Tuesday 23rd July 2019 at Hempstead House, Bapchild, Sittingbourne

Anne Salmon BA MCD MTRPI presents the following summary:

The site proposed for the solar power station with nearly 900000 solar panels and its associated roads, fencing, new culverts to some of the drainage ditches and battery storage in a bunded enclosure would occupy the greater part of the present open marshland between Graveney, Nagden and the sea wall.

Description of the area occupied by the site using the South Swale Marshes as defined in the Swale Local Landscape Designations (SLLD) 2018.

Description of the area occupied by the site using the Swale Landscape Character and Biodiversity Appraisal (SLCBA) 2011

The reference in the developers Landscape and Visual Impact Appraisal Chapter to other sites and designations in the SLCBA 2011 and how this distracts from the importance of the area itself.

How the introduction of shelter belts which would screen the views of the solar panels and battery storage would be uncharacteristic of the area and what could be done to show the impact of these over the longer term.

Impact on viewpoints in LVIA chapter around the outside of the site. Impact on viewpoints along the sea wall and how this affects the whole sea wall (Saxon Shore Way)

Impact on views from footpath ZR 485 through the site from Nagden to Castle Coote.

Discussion of the term 'temporary' with regard to the timespan of the project.

Impact of the development on the historic landscape setting of Graveney village and its Grade I listed church.

Impact of the development on views from the Blean Ridge and Wraik Hill across other Areas of High Landscape Value.

Assessment of the developer's methodology in their LVIA chapter.

Conclusion on the importance and rarity of the Graveney Marshes and linked international wildlife habitats.

Anne Salmon BA MCD MRTPI

On behalf of Faversham and Swale East Branch Labour Party