

FAVERSHAM CREEK TRUST

REGENERATING FAVERSHAM'S MARITIME HERITAGE

The Purifier Building • Morrisons Wharf • North Lane • Faversham • Kent • ME13 7DY

26th June 2019

National Infrastructure Planning
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol BS1 6PN

BY EMAIL TO: CleveHillSolarPark@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Dear Sir or Madam

Application by Cleve Hill Solar Park Limited for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Cleve Hill Solar Park Project

I am writing as Chairman of Faversham Creek Trust (FCT) and Convener of Faversham & Oare Heritage Harbour Group (FOHHG) to object strongly to the proposed development at Cleve Hill, on the grounds of adverse Landscape & Visual Impact. I have requested to speak at ISH3.

Since FCT was set up in 2011 we have worked tirelessly to fulfil our ambition – 'Regenerating Faversham's Maritime Heritage'. Part of this work is to preserve the rural and maritime environment of Faversham, to promote sailing, rowing and all kinds of leisure use of our coastline and Creeks on the water and on the land. We have established working relationships with other organisations along the North Kent Coast, including the Whitstable Maritime Trust, Kentish Sail Association, Queenborough Harbour Trust, Medway & Swale Boating Association, Northfleet Harbour Trust and the Thames Barge Match Committee. We are founder members of FOHHG, which shares our objectives. Our aim, with these and other groups, is to create a cohesive plan for the North Kent Coast as a place to visit and tour, with harbours and moorings for visitors arriving by boat and maritime attractions for tourists and local people to enjoy. We have even got a proposed name for the area – the Oyster Coast. This development would ruin people's enjoyment of this coastline from both land and sea.

This land is part of an area designated as a Marine Protected Area and an SPA with marine components. It is part of an area with various designations including Ramsar, SSSI and SPA. It is an internationally important estuarine habitat. Wetlands like this are among the most threatened landscapes and habitats in the world. Insects are in decline worldwide – this area provides habitat for many different species of insects as well as for birds, bats and other small mammals. It is a flood plain, designated as such by local authorities planning for high tide events and rising sea levels, as a sacrificial area to protect local towns. Wetland areas like this are known for their ability to capture and store carbon dioxide.



Patrons: The Countess Sodes, Sir David Melville CBE, Professor Christopher Wright

Faversham Creek Trust: Registered Office,
The Purifier Building, Morrisons Wharf,
North Lane, Faversham, Kent ME13 7DY

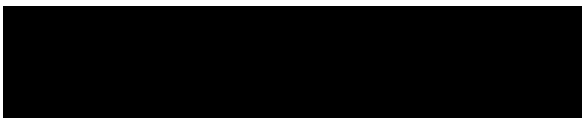
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This coastline is enjoyed by many people, both by land and sea. They value the largely unspoilt rural nature (apart from the intrusive pylons) of the coast from the fringes of Whitstable to the Isle of Grain, compared with the heavily industrialised riverside and shoreline beyond. It is a very popular area for sailing, both by people who own their own boats and by people who hire boats by the day for tours or fishing. The Saxon Shore Way – a historic route, and part of Natural England’s Coastal Path – is walked by many people, and this part of it is especially popular. They come to enjoy the uninterrupted open space with tranquil views and abundant wildlife. We should set an example to the world for protecting such sensitive and fragile environments, not despoiling them. There are other definitions of sustainability and ways to be environmentally responsible besides green energy.

The proposed ‘Solar Park’ is not a park by any definition of the word – see the Oxford Concise Dictionary, which includes ‘a large area of land kept in its natural state for public recreational use’. On behalf of FCT and FOHHG, I ask that the area be kept as a park in the proper sense, open land available for all of us to enjoy for recreation both by land and by sea.

While we support sustainable energy, there are other places much better suited to solar panels than this one, whether roofs of houses or redevelopment of former power stations at Richborough and the Isle of Grain.

Yours faithfully



Sue Akhurst
Chairman – Faversham Creek Trust
Convenor – Faversham & Oare Heritage Harbour Group

Kent Lodge
20 Newton Road
Faversham ME13 8DZ



Marine Protected Areas in the UK

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Marine Protected Areas

SACs with Marine Components
SACs with marine components
 SACs with Marine Components

SPAs with Marine Components
SPAs with Marine Components
 SPAs with Marine Components

Marine Conservation Zones
Marine Conservation Zones
 Marine Conservation Zones

Nature Conservation MPAs & Other Area Based Measures
Nature Conservation Marine Protected Areas
 Nature Conservation Marine Protected Areas
 Other Area Based Measures (Scotland)
 Other Area Based Measures (Scotland)

Marine Nature Reserves
Marine Nature Reserves
 Marine Nature Reserves

Administrative Boundaries

12nm territorial seas limit
 12nm Territorial Sea limit

UK Continental Shelf designated area
 UK Continental Shelf Designated Area

