

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Cleve Hill Solar Park](#)
Subject: Written Representation
Date: 26 June 2019 21:38:39
Attachments: [REDACTED]

To whom it may concern

Please find attached my written representation setting out my opposition to the proposed solar power station.

Kind regards

Sarah Jefferys

[REDACTED]

26th June 2019

Written Statement of opposition to the Solar Power Station

I am strongly against the proposed solar power station on Graveney Marshes.

My opposition to the proposal is for the following reasons:

- Environmental impact including ecology and wildlife
 - The densely packed panels in east west formation will be like rooftops smothering the land with no space for fauna and flora. The idea of sheep grazing is surely impossible with this type of set up where there will be no grass able to grow.
 - This is a protected and important area – identified as being of locally high landscape value by Swale Borough Council and adjoins protected area - The Swale SPA/Ramsar site/SSSI
 - The adverse effect on birds, both local and over-wintering, with many protected species. The site is crossed by species rich ditches currently and the proposal does not allow meaningful wildlife corridors to exist.
- Unprecedented size and scale of the project
 - The proposal constitutes a solar power station the size of Faversham town
 - Panels will be up to 4m high completely changing the undeveloped and remote character of the area for miles and miles
 - The local plan tries to encourage tourism in the area and currently the site is used by many bird watchers, walkers and nature enthusiasts who will soon be looking at an industrial landscape
 - Local residents and cultural heritage assets will be affected
 - Users of the ancient walking routes including the Saxon Shore Way will have their views compromised for miles and miles with no currently existing long range views for which the area is known.
 - The national cycle network runs through the village of Graveney and the roads which it uses will be adversely affected by heavy traffic use and will be dangerous particularly during the long construction period. There is an opportunity to take this route off the road and run it through the proposed development area, improving safety. This should be made compulsory on the developer.
- Noise and pollution
 - The villages of Goodnestone and Graveney will be affected by noise and pollution during construction and possibly ongoing as it is not known for sure how much noise will be generated by either the solar panels themselves or the battery storage unit
 - Our school children play in the playground and school field which are either side of the road where construction traffic will be travelling – with one HGV or LGV movement along the road anticipated every 2 minutes (calculated using information in the non-technical summary section 14 - 75 HGVs and 48 LGVs required to access the site per day, meaning 246 movements between 9am and 5pm meaning a

movement every 2 minutes) the vibration, noise and pollution will be unfair and unbearable. Our children must be kept safe.

- Access and traffic, especially during the build
 - School children will be using the surrounding roads to get to school twice a day, using roads which are already dangerous due to no walkways and volume of traffic and size of vehicles used by local farms and other commercial businesses
 - The villages of Goodnestone and Graveney are not linked by walkways along the road which goes between them making it really dangerous to attempt to walk between them
 - The local roads are entirely unsuitable for the type and level of additional traffic proposed during the intensive period of construction where it may be difficult for a car and a HGV to pass – this will lead to gridlock in the local area making it very difficult for local residents to go about their normal daily lives
- Nothing being offered to the local community in return for having the solar power station on their doorstep – where is the community spirit, not just profit making. Nothing was explored in this area except an orchard which has now been removed.
 - There should be a walkway to link the two villages for safety both during build and going forward
 - One footpath has been taken away and another offered which overall does not improve the access across nor utilises links to the national cycle network
 - The additional footpath offered is a permissive byway which as I understand it they can close for up to 364 days per year – it should be a legal right of way like the other footpaths
 - More footpaths should be offered and some mitigation should be put in place to keep the open views – possibly by raising up the footpaths throughout the site so that they look over the solar panels
 - Villagers could be made shareholders or have some alignment to the project – why can't some of the profits be used to provide free electricity for locals?
 - There has been no attempt by the developers to contact the local village school during the process, despite them being obviously impacted. Why can't the developers offer to link up with the local schools to teach children about the technology for example? The safety of these children should also be at the forefront of their minds and yet they have offered nothing to mitigate this risk.
 - Those few people who are most adversely affected should be offered something or be bought out by the developers as their lives are on hold currently and have been and will be for some time to come. The developers approach to dealing with these individuals has been unsympathetic and even denial that they will be impacted. This is unacceptable.