

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Jones, Hefin](#)
Subject: Cleve Hill Solar
Date: 25 July 2019 12:48:03
Attachments: [REDACTED]

Dear Hefin Jones

Please find attached a pdf summary of my representation at the Open Floor Hearing 1 in Faversham on 16th July.

Sincerely
Victoria Osborne

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Please note my new e mail address [REDACTED] Can you update your records please. If you have already done so thanks.

Victoria Osborne
The Curious Peasant

RE: CLEVE HILL SOLAR PARK

Summary of representation made at the Open Floor Hearing 1 on 16th July, 2019, at the Alexander Centre, Faversham

Victoria Osborne

Co Owner of [REDACTED] at Seasalter Chalet's at The Old Sportsman, Faversham Road, Seasalter

1. I am, in principle, in support of solar farms but not on the Graveney Marshes site. Cleve Hill Solar are presenting their plans as a green venture but it will in fact lead to irreversible industrialisation of one of the few remaining open areas of coast in this part of Kent. This open stretch of farmland with the Saxon Shore Way running on its Northern and Western boundaries is hugely beneficial to the health and mental wellbeing of the people who visit the area; walkers, sailors and wildlife lovers as well as residents. The developers have, as a sop to residents, proposed a new permissive path (not a right of way) which will run between and below tables of panels 3.9 metres high so there will be no open views as at present.
2. This section of farmland and marsh has been designated by the Environment agency as an "area of managed retreat". Cleve Hill Solar have stated that they are willing to take responsibility for the sea defences. Surely it is wrong for a private, for profit company to take over the flood defences in an area of marsh which acts as flood protection for Faversham, further up stream? A classic case of conflict of interests as Cleve Hill will want to protect their investment, possibly at the expense of Faversham.
3. The proposed site is situated between a RAMSAR site and a Nature Reserve to the North, A nature reserve to the West and a SSSI to the East. Cleve Hill Solar have, in their Environmental Impact Assessment, claimed that the effect of the Solar Power Station on Ground nesting, foraging and roosting birds will be "Nationally Insignificant". However the local impact on vulnerable species will be devastating. The huge tables of panels will displace ground nesting birds such as sky larks, lapwings and marsh harriers. The internationally important overwintering population of Brent Geese will lose high tide roosting sites. The mitigation zone of 40 hectares allowed at the East end of the site (on an existing SSSI) will be totally inadequate compensation for the loss of this huge open space.

4. Lithium Ion batteries have dubious environmental extraction and production impacts. They have an unreliable safety record and “If overheated or overcharged, Li-ion batteries can suffer internal mechanical damage, leading to electrical shorting and internal heating. Overheating and overcharging can also result in a thermal runaway event that can lead to cell rupture and leakage of combustible electrolytes”¹. In addition they produce a noise of perhaps 70 dbcs; the World Health Organisation have recently published a paper claiming that environmental noise pollution has significant effects on health.

“ ...impacts of noise include ischaemic heart disease, obesity, diabetes, tinnitus, sleep disturbance, adverse birth outcomes and cognitive impairment in children”²

The proposal for a battery store is incomplete in its detail and surely cannot be approved until some specifics are in place.

5. The Saxon Shore Way long distance path is a valuable asset to North and East Kent. Locating the Solar Power Station on Graveney Marshes will destroy the open aspect of the area denying visitors the long open views that are emblematic of this area. An area allowing recreation or ‘re-creation’ that allows us to re-create ourselves, re-balance our mental well being and improve physical health will be destroyed and industrialised in pursuit of profit.

¹ <https://www.powermag.com/lithium-ion-batteries-a-potential-fire-hazard/>

²<http://www.euro.who.int/en/publications/abstracts/environmental-noise-guidelines-for-the-european-region-2018>