

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Cleve Hill Solar Park](#)
Subject: Submission at Meeting on 22nd July 6.30pm
Date: 25 July 2019 12:55:02
Attachments: [REDACTED]

My submission is attached.

Jan Pritchard

Cleve Hill Solar Park – EN010085

Your reference: 20021781

First of all let me say that I am strongly in favour of zero carbon energy, and it is essential to develop more sources of electricity, especially if our cars are all going to need it.

But I am strongly opposed to putting such a vast industrial development on this rural area.

The sites for producing the electricity need to be chosen with care and consideration for the landscape, the wildlife, and most of all for the people who currently enjoy the area. This is why we live here.

The proposed area is now farmland, also used by Brent Geese, Curlews, Golden Plovers and other birds for roosting and feeding in winter, when the high tide pushes them off the mudflats. They need to do this by just flying over the sea wall as they do now - it's no good trying to tell them there's another field further east instead - that's not how they work.

In spring and summer the whole area is used by Skylarks, singing and nesting. Over 50 singing males were recorded in a 2016 breeding bird survey.

The dykes are used by nesting Reed and Sedge Warblers and Reed Buntings, to name just a few. Also some Schedule 1 species such as Bearded Tit and Kingfisher.

Barn Owls, also a Schedule 1 species, nest in several sites adjacent to the proposed development, and this is where they forage for voles and other prey - very successfully at present. We are currently monitoring a brood of 6 chicks, whose parents are foraging in the area - and they need a lot of prey to feed 6 young. It just won't be available if there are wall to wall panels over the whole area.

Most of the publicity for this project is focused on Faversham. In fact I think that probably more people approach from Whitstable,

walking along the sea wall. This is the Saxon Shore Way, and is a footpath where we can and do all walk to enjoy views of open countryside where we can listen to Skylarks singing, as well as enjoying views across the estuary. Tranquility and spiritual refreshment for all who want to get away from the urban bustle for a while.

This is of immense importance to our mental and physical wellbeing, as well as for the wildlife which are part of our enjoyment.

There are better places which could be developed - brownfield sites and roofs of new developments, both commercial and housing, which are currently being built without any solar panels.

I strongly object to this massive industrial project spoiling our local countryside, when there are better alternatives.

Jan Pritchard

Whitstable resident since 1966. Moved to Whitstable to enjoy the open rural landscape, the natural history of the area, and the peace and quiet and tranquillity.

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22nd July 2019