From:

To:

Cleve Hill Solar Park

Subject: Objection to Cleve Hill Solar Park application

**Date:** 10 November 2019 22:31:30

## To whom it may concern:

I am writing regarding my objection to the planned Cleve Hill Solar Park application. My main concerns are highlighted below and for the most part, centre on the local wildlife, and the inevitable impact upon on it

- I do not feel that the impact on the local environment has been fully considered, Cleve Hill Solar Parks plan for the wildlife is not good enough, especially for the protected Marsh Harriers that breed and hunt on the Marshes. Some of the plans involve removing wildlife to another area, which is not only robbing the wildlife of their natural homes, but also changing the natural environment left behind
- Bird records showing where, when and how birds populate Graveney Marshes are not up to date. Mitigation for the movement and areas the birds breed, eat and nest are not sufficient to protect them, or prevent them from leaving the Marshes altogether, especially during construction and decommissioning
- There will be a great loss of functionality linked habitats for all wildlife, this cannot be mitigated on any level. For example, the protected Marsh Harrier (and owls) hunt over open landscape, not between corridors of Solar Panels
- The development is for profit, it is not "Green". The Government is committed to Green Spaces, this is a Green Space enjoyed by locals and visitors alike. The Saxon Shore Way is to be added to the English Coastal path route, the Solar Park would destroy the enjoyment of all walkers as the wild space views of Graveney Marshes would be obliterated. It will completely transform the character and appearance of Graveney Marshes, on such a large scale it will "industrialise" the countryside. This will not be a "Park", but a "Powerstation".
- Screening suggested by Cleve Hill will totally change the natural environment (visual sight of the Marshes will be destroyed), and is not in keeping with the area, planting of hedges is not "Mitigation" for the species that already reside on the Marshes
- The area would suffer from a considerable increase in pollution and noise from continuous traffic affecting the children at School whose playground is close to the road, as well as locals
- I do not feel that other locations have been properly explored
- I understand that the Marshes contain Carbon. This would be released during construction, surely outweighing any benefits
- The Lithium Battery installation has not been fully documented, Cleve Hill did not approach the Kent Fire Brigade at the early stages, there is still no real evidence of in depth Risk Assessments being conducted. It is also worrying that this would be built on a flood risk zone, especially due to the proposed size
- Whist Cleve Hill give information on how many houses in the Kent area would benefit from the electricity produced on this site, it is not proven that the electricity produced would be sold to "the highest" bidder
- I also have concerns that the local roads are not in a place to be able to support HGV vehicles, there are very few passing places, the sight lines are poor, the road condition is unsuitable, the Railway Bridge is on a bend, there are very few footpaths for

pedestrians, the many cyclists would be endangered (it is a regular cycle route), the local School uses a playing field that has to be accessed across the road, and there are many local businesses that would be affected (Cleve Hill has not recognised all of these), locals would be severely affected day to day, and it would appear that the measurements Cleve Hill has supplied for the width of the roads is inaccurate

- There appears to be a distinct lack of information on Insurance Proposals for the construction of the site, the Battery Storage element, and the general day to day running of the site
- Lastly Amber Rudd, former Secretary of State for Energy and Climate, stated "Solar expansion should not come at the expense of our Natural Environment". I wholeheartedly agree

In summary, I fully object to Cleve Hill Solar Park being built

Yours faithfully Laura Daynes

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