

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Cleve Hill Solar Park](#)  
**Subject:** Objection to proposed Cleve Hill Solar Park  
**Date:** 13 November 2019 08:29:58

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Dear Sir,

I disagree with the proposed scheme - please find below a few of my reasons for objecting to the planned Cleve Hill Solar Park application.

- Whilst I am all for renewable energy, this does not automatically override Environmental Protection. This type of development should be built on previously developed land (eg. Kings North Power Station), non-agricultural land, or buildings. Cleve Hill state they will not build "in or next to a designated protected area such as ...SSSI.....well drained, with no flood risk" (the site is within the EA flood zone 3, therefore at high flood risk). Graveney Marshes has both of these.
- The Marshes contain Carbon. This would be released during construction, therefore outweighing any benefits.
- This development is for profit, it is not "Green".
- Cleve Hill's mitigation for the wildlife is not proven, especially for the protected Marsh Harriers that breed and hunt on the Marshes. Some of the mitigation involves removing wildlife to another area. This is robbing the wildlife of their natural homes, changing the natural environment.
- 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.
- 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 utterly 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 "Power station".
- 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.
- 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.
- Screening suggested by Cleve Hill will totally change the natural environment (visual sight of the Marshes will be destroyed) is not in keeping with the area, planting of hedges is not "Mitigation" for the species that already reside on the Marshes.

- 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.
- The local roads are not suitable for HGV vehicles, there are very few passing places, the sight lines are poor, the road condition is not suitable, the Railway Bridge is very narrow and on a blind 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, 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. The measurements Cleve Hill has supplied for the width of the roads is inaccurate.
- The area would suffer from pollution and noise from continuous traffic affecting the children at School whose playground is close to the road, as well as locals.
- There is 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.
- Amber Rudd, former Secretary of State for Energy and Climate, stated "Solar expansion should not come at the expense of our Natural Environment". I uphold this statement.

I therefore would like it noted that I totally object to Cleve Hill Solar Park being built.

Yours faithfully,

Chris McGowan