

We are the residents of [REDACTED] which borders the proposed site, with our property being approximately 5 metres from the site. We have a number of concerns with the project which are detailed below.

Kind regards,

Gary Clayton.

1. Loss of valuable agricultural land
2. Visual and Environmental affects
3. Transport links

1. Loss of valuable agricultural land

The UK already has a considerable food security issue, which was highlighted in Defra's report "United Kingdom Food Security Report 2021: Theme 2: UK Food Supply Sources" which stated that "About 54% of food on plates is produced in the UK". It concluded that this makes the UK incredibly susceptible to global food issues, which can cause rapid rises in food prices for UK consumers.

Indeed Global Food Security (GFS- The UK cross-government programme on food security research) state in their information on "UK threat" that "Pressures on the UK's food security are here to stay. Increasing global population and changing consumption patterns are increasing demand for foodstuffs and contributing to upwards price trends."

It is clear therefore that losing around 950 acres of valuable arable land should be avoided. A considerably smaller scheme utilising the poorest quality land should be investigated as this would vastly limit the effect on food production.

2. Visual and Environmental affects

The scale of the solar farm causes considerable visual and environmental effects for local residents and wildlife. The panels will ruin the outlook for large numbers of local residents who use the land for recreation or who live near to the site. Whilst panels will be shielded at the edge by new hedging where two storey houses border the site there is a considerable risk of glare from the reflection of the sun, which is likely to be reflected towards these nearby properties. This will cause a considerable impact to those properties and therefore the area around properties bordering the site should remain free from panels. To date the Longfield Solar team have not presented any significant proposals for avoiding glare from the panels to nearby properties even though the issue has been raised with them.

The site will be a major construction project, with the battery storage site alone being 10 acres of concrete/tarmac surface for construction. The area is home to large amounts of wildlife, including muntjac and fallow deer, barn owls and many other species which will be severely restricted by the proposals.

3. Transport links

The construction phase of the project is expected to cause significant numbers of HGV journeys to and from the site. The site has no suitable road access for this quantity of HGV movements and the route chosen by the Longfield team via Cranham road is narrow with no footpaths. The road is winding and surrounded by heavy vegetation causing poor visibility round the many bends. HGVs only travel along the road by using part of the oncoming lane which means that when a HGV meets a large vehicle on the opposing side they must carefully crawl past each other, whilst risking damage to either the properties on either side or the vehicles against the heavy vegetation. In summary the transport routes are simply unsuitable for large numbers of HGVs.