

Comments made after reviewing the Applicant's deadline 5 response to the deadline 4 submissions; document EN010122/D5/13.3.

### **Noise Standards**

On page 5 of their response document, the Applicants states:

“BS8233 is referenced in the National Policy Statement EN-1 at 5.12.9, where it is stated: “Operational noise, with respect to human receptors, should be assessed using the principles of the relevant British Standards and other guidance” and is therefore considered appropriate.”

The key word in this statement is relevant.

I have already demonstrated that BS8233 specifically highlights that is not relevant in this type of application. The standard itself states:

BS 8233 is applicable to the design of new buildings, or refurbished buildings undergoing a change of use, but does not provide guidance on assessing the effects of changes in the external noise levels to occupants of an existing building.”

I also refer to Method implementation document (MID) for BS 4142 (December 2023) which very clearly states in section 8.5:

“You must not use BS 8233 to assess noise pollution from an industrial or commercial sound.”

It is possible that this statement has been introduced to this guidance document because BS8233 has previously been erroneously referenced in planning applications. In light of this reasonably new guidance, it should be considered that any previous use of BS8233 should not set a precedent in relation to assessing noise levels from solar installations.

### **Tranquillity**

The Applicants state that the site is not tranquil as there is agricultural activity, and yet this area of South Derbyshire is noted as one of the most tranquil areas within the county.

See “technical-support-document-2-tranquillity.pdf” which is available on the Derbyshire County Council website if you search for landscape character. This report makes the following points:

“Tranquillity is an important perceptual quality of the landscape and makes a significant contribution to people's enjoyment of an area. Unfortunately a lot of modern development, such as new roads and urban extensions, has led to a diminution of tranquillity. In order to reverse this trend it is important to record the current resource and provide a spatial context for considering tranquillity within Derbyshire.

Tranquil areas occur in the west associated with the Derbyshire Peak Fringe and Lower Derwent NCA and the Needwood and South Derbyshire Claylands NCA... There continue to be localised pockets of tranquillity associated with the Southern Magnesian Limestone, the Melbourne Parklands and the Mease/Sence Lowlands NCAs.”

*(Oakland's Farm is shown in the Mease/Sence Lowlands on the map within this document.)*

### **Historical Temperatures**

On page 8, the Applicant shares some temperature information for 2023 to show that the inverter cooling fans will be unlikely to be running before 7am as the temperature only reached 18°C on the dates they checked. What they did not disclose is that local weather records for the heatwave on 16<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> July 2022 recorded temperatures of between 20°C and 25°C at 7am. Climate change will only make this type of sustained heat more likely, and any noise analysis should reflect this.