

Stonestreet Green Solar - EN010135

Submission by: Aldington and Mersham Support Group

Initial Assessment of Principal Issues

We request that the timetable makes provision for an additional ISH for BESS on account of the absence of any consultation about the scale of this infrastructure, its location and the consequential safety aspects. The EXA has made arrangements for attendance by Kent Fire and Rescue Service and the South East Ambulance Service at the ISH2 (Traffic and Construction). We maintain that it is critically important that the BESS are given the same level of early consideration at an ISH to assist the EXA in planning how this aspect is going to be addressed in the Examination.

We also request that the EXA make a further USI at two locations. The first to observe traffic volumes, manoeuvres and speeds at the Smeeth Crossroads (Station Road/A20 junction) which is on the route by which all staff and construction traffic will approach the principal site compound during the Construction and Decommissioning phases.

The second, which can be combined with the first, is to take in the views of the main part of the scheme as it will be viewed from the various footpaths that run on the north side of the East Stour Valley, in particular AE 376 but also, AE 370, 373, 374, 428 and 430 (see plan attached). The Examiner's previous inspections have been noted but none of the viewpoints chosen cover these views enjoyed by those using these PROW.

We are pleased to see what we consider to be important topics already identified by the EXA. We believe that a number of "sub-topics" should be considered for inclusion. We have set these out below in red font and included the new main topic of BESS which we maintain is too important to be adequately covered within "General Matters".

1. Batteries (BESS)

- Battery chemistry
- Battery unit spacings
- Distance between any BESS and habitation
- Arrangements for water cooling (volume/flow rate at each BESS unit)
- Storage and treatment of run-off fire water
- Access for first responders
- Adherence to NFCC guidelines

2. Biodiversity

- The justification of biodiversity net gain

3. Compulsory Acquisition

4. Development Consent Order

5. General Matters

6. Heritage

- The extent of trial trenching, surveys and analysis

7. Landscape and Visual Impact

- The nature and scale of visualisations provided to depict all proposed infrastructure

8. Noise and Vibration

- Operational noise from the substations and BESS (in relation to residential and PROW receptors)

9. Site Selection

10. Soils – Best and Most Versatile Land and Agriculture

11. Traffic – Construction and Decommissioning

- Handling of dangerous loads – including batteries
- Means of resupply once operational when the East Stour Valley haul road is removed - including replacement of batteries, panels, cables and other infrastructure
- The design and capacity of the principal site compound to accommodate all specified activities - including safe parking and offloading requirements - within the indicated compound area during Construction and Decommissioning phases
- Background traffic management arrangements for single track highway crossings (Bank Road and Laws Lane)

12. Water Environment

- Impact on pre-existing surface water flooding (Laws Lane, Bank Road)
- Effects on the East Stour from any fire water run-off
- The safeguards in place if the HDD process beneath the East Stour gives rise to a contamination/adverse water quality incident