

SUMMARY

Note: The below is a brief summary of my view of the Stonestreet Green Solar proposal. It is impossible to deal with all the issues in a single short summary and I sincerely ask that the Inspector pay due regard to the full comments made by me and other respondents.

I have been resident in Aldington since 1985 and I am appalled at the Stonestreet Green Solar proposals effectively to industrialise the beautiful rural landscape surrounding the village on three sides for at least 40 years. By the time the vast project is due to be decommissioned, there will be tall screening of the project by tree planting and hedges that have been allowed to grow significantly higher than their traditional levels. As a result, a whole new generation, travelling to and from the village via now enclosed lanes, will have no idea that once, behind this screening, there had been natural landscape and beautiful long-distance views between the Aldington Ridge and the Kent Downs National Landscape and between Aldington and Mersham rural parishes. Add to this the likely contamination of the land from huge blocks of containers placed on concrete bases, metal piles for the panels driven 3m deep into the soil and most of the land in constant shade for 40 years, this will have become a blighted, brownfield site, ripe only for further development that would not be permitted under the present Local Plan as it would be contrary to Policy HOU5 as being well outside the village confines. The proposals amount to vandalism on the highest scale.