

Bishopton Villages Action Group.
February 17, 2024

Proposed Development Consent Order for Byers Gill Solar Electrical & associated works.

JBM & RWE - Acceptance Stage

Inadequacy of Public Consultation Report



1. Contents

- 1. Contents**
- 2. Introduction**
- 3. Why The Consultation Was Inadequate**
- 4. Timeline of Events**
- 5. Conclusion**

Appendix 1 - Questions asked but not answered & Stockton consultation.

Appendix 2 - Webinar selective questions answered.

Appendix 3 - Door to door Survey response of Bishopton Residents.

Appendix 4- RWE JBM response declaring no further engagement.

Appendix 5- Copy of a completed questionnaire.

Appendix 6- Lamp post mounted section 48 Planning Act Notice.

Appendix 7- Table of Findings from JBM DCO Consultation Report document 5.1. Separate file Summary Table.pdf

2. Introduction

- **Say No to Byers Gill:** Bishopton Villages Action Group (BVAG) is a local community action group, with volunteers from across the parishes affected by the solar and battery storage development proposal that is being applied for by JBM and the parent company RWE.
 - This report is not a representation about the Byers Gill Proposal; it focuses solely on the inadequacy of the consultation process. The report has been written to assist the Planning Inspectorate and Local Authorities with assessing if the applicant's consultation has been adequate further to Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008. With respect to the applicant's duties under Section 49 of the Act these will form part of our written representations when invited.
 - JBM carried out a limited consultation for their proposal which started on Friday 5 May with the deadline for responses on Friday 16th June 2023. Only preliminary information was available at that time, and the scheme boundary and content has changed since.
 - Consultation, by definition, implies discussion. The exchange of thoughts to refine an outcome. This is key to the public consultation process in the Planning Act 2008 (The Planning Act). This report highlights the lack of opportunity for public, two-way discussion during, and after, the Statutory Consultation. It provides an overview of the flaws that were brought to our attention by residents through direct communications, as well as surveys that we have undertaken.
 - As the Government Guidance states, there is no 'one-size-fits-all' approach, and the aim should be ensure that the proposals are explained as far as possible to local communities and that those communities should be informed, and provided with the ways and means to discuss and influence the designs and proposals where possible. This benefits all parties, and is in keeping with the cornerstone of the Town Planning system in the UK, where public consultation is a meaningful and critical part of the process.
 - The feeling of many communities in this case is that 'rubber stamping' and 'ticking boxes' is too often the approach taken. This is especially the case where applicants are foreign owned companies, with less of a long term stake and understanding in the local community.
-

- It should also be noted that these failings in consultation were highlighted to JBM by BVAG and Parish Councils during and after the non-statutory consultation, as well as in the run up to the Statutory Consultation, and during the early weeks of the Statutory Consultation period. Residents wrote letters to JBM explaining why the consultation was not working effectively, suggesting improvements that could be made to enable fair participation to more residents and to allow a better assessment of the impact.
 - It has been highlighted many times during consultation that there are significant flood issues throughout the proposed area and JBM have not responded adequately to these comments just stating there is a low risk of flooding from installation of solar panels.
 - Councillors local MPs and adversely affected village school also contacted JBM, expressing the concerns.
 - During the 2 webinars, residents questioned many issues from the JBM Solar publication. The responses generally vague and selective answering obvious questions but avoiding specifics whilst continually referring to the final DCO submission where final details would be revealed.
 - Repeated requests for further communication and engagement were ignored by JBM. Culminating in a final letter from JBM RWE (Appendix 2) effectively refusing further engagement and repeating the frequently used response that all questions raised as part of the public consultations would be answered within a document which would only be published at the time of their submission of the DCO currently scheduled for end of January 2024
 - JBM had ample time to react and make amendments to the way their Statutory Consultation was being carried out. They did not react and persevered with an ineffective consultation methodology.
 - In view of the above, it is the communities opinion that that the application does not meet the statutory requirement or associated guidance on community engagement required for National Infrastructure Projects and should not be accepted by the Planning Inspectorate at this stage as the requirement for adequate consultation has not been met.
-

- In reaching this conclusion we have consulted the Planning Act 2008 Guidance on the pre-application process¹. In particular this states,

“15. Pre-application consultation is a key requirement for applications for Development Consent Orders for major infrastructure projects. Effective pre-application consultation will lead to applications which are better developed and better understood by the public, and in which the important issues have been articulated and considered as far as possible in advance of submission of the application to the Secretary of State. This in turn will allow for shorter and more efficient examinations.”

Paragraph 19 adds

“19. The pre-application consultation process is crucial to the effectiveness of the major infrastructure consenting regime. A thorough process can give the Secretary of State confidence that issues that will arise during the six months examination period have been identified, considered, and – as far as possible – that applicants have sought to reach agreement on those issues. Without adequate consultation, the subsequent application will not be accepted when it is submitted. If the Secretary of State determines that the consultation is inadequate, he or she can recommend that the applicant carries out further consultation activity before the application can be accepted.”

We would therefore urge the Planning Inspectorate in concluding that the community consultation was inadequate, and that the Application is not recommended for Acceptance, and that further pre-application consultation should be undertaken to allow a full consideration of the proposal, its impacts and alternatives as well as an opinion on the scope of environmental impacts which should be considered.

¹ Planning Act 2008 (Guidance in the pre-application process) DCLG (March 2015)

3. Why the consultation was inadequate

- On the front cover of the original consultation booklet (Figure 2) there was no indication that the scheme was a large-scale project and NSIP, when most solar energy schemes locally occupy a few fields and fall under the Local authority planning approval system as they are less than 50MW. Byers Gill is significantly more at 180MW. As a result, many residents looked at the front cover and no further, not realising the significance of the proposal to them. It was misleading and actively disengaged people from participating further.



Figure 2 - Cover of Booklet

- Despite this the consultation that did take place and resulted in a unanimous negative response from all the local communities affected.
- More than 300 written questionnaires at least (99%) of the community involved were submitted to JBM all of which showed that there was no community approval whatsoever for this development. JBM actively tried to encourage submission of the responses via their website. Given the age demographic this could be interpreted as excluding a large number of responses.
- Within this document there was no reference to the numerous other developments all within a 5-mile radius of Byers Gill many of which will if approved be less than 500m from the boundaries of Byers Gill resulting in a transformation of the current agricultural landscape to a sprawling expanse of

solar panels battery storage systems and electricity substations. Effectively creating and power generation industrial zone.

- A further “You Said We Did” document (Figure 3) was published in November 2023. This was only given limited circulation many residents did not receive and served to further confuse the issues by re arranging a number of the original layouts and making claims that panel areas had been removed when in fact one of the landowners involved in the scheme had withdrawn his agreement to use his land. This was not covered anywhere in the document.



Figure 3 - You said we did

In addition, the applicant showed inadequacy in the posting of notices in as much as these are intended to inform the public of the proposal, and where and how to read about it in detail. The attached Notice for example refer's to the fact that a 'PEIR' can be viewed at a location in a public library in Stockton. The acronym 'PEIR' would mean nothing to the average person. The Notice does explain or inform the reader what a Preliminary Environmental Information Report is'.

It is not clear if the Notice in fact is in breach of the statutory requirements in this respect, but it is clearly poor and inadequate practice in terms of community engagement to fail to explain that a key document is available to view.

The Notice then explains that consultation documents are available at a single library in Stockton. This is some distance from the majority of the areas directly impacted by the proposal Byers Gill Solar Installation. There are two public libraries in Darlington which could have been used either instead of, or in addition, for public consultation points. Again, this demonstrates a lack of care and indicates the purpose of the consultation is to tick boxes, rather than genuinely engage and inform the affected communities.

The applicant Statement of Community Engagement appears somewhat at odds with the reality of their consultation which states that

“Posters including details of the consultation, how to access project information, and how to get involved, will be displayed at well-used public locations within and outside of the PCZ, including libraries, shops and civic buildings.”

(Statement of Community Consultation - Byers Gill Solar, JMB Solar May 2023).

A copy of the Notice is attached as Appendix 6.

4. Timeline of Events

The JBM lack of consultation and engagement timeline

October 2022 - Purely by coincidence it was noticed that a booking had been arranged for the purpose of a meeting hosted by JBM to discuss the Byers Gill solar development with interested parties.

Initial applications for the use of Brafferton Village hall for stakeholders meetings were actually made under a different name. Perhaps another avoidance tactic.

The interested parties in this case were the landowners whose land was being used for the development of this industrial grid scale solar power scheme. The proposals from JBM to landowners had clearly been made well in advance of this meeting. JBM opened dialogue with residents by suggesting a Stakeholder meeting take place to which landowners and the parish council clerk were issued invitations to attend. The information presented was a desktop study which bore little resemblance to the actual location, topography and geographical nature of the areas highlighted.

Only 25 brochures issued for 356 residents in Bishopton alone, Gt Stainton and Little Stainton which are close by villages were issued any brochures.

There was no invitation for local residents interested parties did not extend to local residents clearly not considered to be stakeholders by JBM.

The parish council were invited to and attended this meeting.

During this time a number of other developments became clear to the group:

Gately Moor, Lonpasture, Whinfield, Letch Lane California Farm, Thorpe Bank, Low Middlefield Farm, Burtree Lane, Hunger Hill Farm. Solar power developments were also progressing through the Local Authority or already in place route towards approval due to them being less than 50Mw output. These have since been approved by both Stockton and Darlington Borough councils.

Group attends local government planning meetings and objections raised.

October 2022 first contact made with our MP Paul Howell via E mail.

14th December 2022 - First community meeting held in Bishopton Village Hall to raise awareness of the scheme. (Action Group Initiative)

4th January 2023 JBM - placed advert in the Darlington & Stockton Times advertising Byers Gill solar plant (JBM Initiative)

14th January 2023 - Meeting with Paul Howell and BVAG photographs to support. (Action Group Initiative)

31st January 2023 - E mailed Michael Baker enquiring about what form and when consultation would open. (Action Group Initiative)

20th February 2023 - MB replied saying it's not open yet but would open in May 2023. (JBM Initiative)

18th February 2023 - Red Ribbons applied to most of the trees fronting the main road through Bishopton to highlight the possible damage to the village of the scheme is approved and the main road used as a cable route. (Action Group Initiative)

22 February 2023 - Next community meeting in Village Hall (Action Group Initiative)

07 Mar 2023 - Paul Howell Raises the Byers Gill and associated concentration of developments with Michael Gove. Photographs to support. (Action Group Initiative)

April 2023 - Door to door flyers circulated around Bishopton and surrounding villages to raise awareness. (Action Group Initiative)

24 April 2023 - Open meeting in Bishopton Village Hall hosted by the then DBC chair Jonathon Dulston. (Action Group Initiative)

Friday 5th May 2023 to Friday 16th June 2023 Official Byers Gill consultation period opens

5th May 2023- JBM representative delivered 254 copies of brief Consultation brochure to Bishopton Village Hall for then use of 326 adults in Bishopton village alone. Noted in BPC letter to JBM of 10/5/23. (JBM Initiative)

6th May 2023 - Section 48 planning act Notices appear on local posts informing that the JBM application is available to view for consultation. These were inadequate in referring to a 'PEIR' which was not explained as to what this meant. These were referred to as compulsory purchase orders causing some concerns throughout the community. (JBM Initiative)

10th May 2023 -JBM duly notified that the brochures were insufficient and request made for more, JBM delivered 120 brochures to Norton Library located some 8 to 9 miles east , again, a further request was made for brochures for the residents to enable the said residents to review and respond to the vague design and proposed

development. JBM responded eventually with more brochures but, did not distribute them amongst the residents/villages. (JBM Initiative)

10th May 2023 BPC Bishopton Parish Council referred to JBM request to return all questionnaires sent to some of the residents by 16th June 2023 and stated to do this JBM would need to provide the additional booklet brochures by 28th/5/23. This was not achieved and reduced the response time for the residents of all areas. (Action Group Initiative)

12th May 2023 - Paul Howell (our MP) meeting in Village Hall (Action Group Initiative)

31st May Webinar - Hosted by JBM for consultation this was the infamous grazing chicken's proposal nothing much else to say. (JBM Initiative)

18th May 2023 - Northern Echo a low circulation local paper produces JBM sponsored advert for Byers Gill. (JBM Initiative)

24th May 2023 - JBM open day in Bishopton Village Hall huge turnout at least 120 people attended and presented a unanimous objection directly to JBM. (JBM Initiative)

6th June 2023 - BVAG meeting with Bishopton Redmarshall school Head Teacher and the governing trust. School would not formally object but agreed they had concerns and a copy the letter they sent to JBM highlighting their concerns is available. (Action Group Initiative)

14th June 2023 - Confirmed submission of well over 300 at least 99% response questionnaires to JBM from all over the local communities. It should be noted that the questionnaire was lengthy and the general consensus was that it was biased in favour of the development. A copy of my personal submission is attached as Appendix 4 (Action Group Initiative)

28th June 2023- Meeting with DBC via teams discussed the development with Deputy Chair of the new council Chris McEwan. He agreed in his opinion the scheme was too large, but that DBC could do nothing as it was a NSIP project. Unfortunately, there was no written record of this statement although he did repeat it during his site visit. (Action Group Initiative)

13th July 2023 - Meeting with deputy chair of DBC Chris McEwan visits Bishopton to view the proposed sites. (Action Group Initiative)

26th July 2023- Further meeting with DBC McEwan & Coates. Pretty much a repeat of the previous meeting stating they had no influence over the outcome as to was NSIP project and they are only consultees. (Action Group Initiative)

1st August 2023- E mailed MB asking about updates on the consultation feedback JBM had received (Action Group Initiative)

9th August 2023- MB response in his response he quoted the following text *“I’d like to clarify we do have a legal obligation to respond to every piece of feedback we received, this will be published in our Consultation Report alongside the application, which is due to be submitted in January 2024.”* (JBM Initiative)

16th August 2023 - Councillor McEwan visits Great Stainton Sites. (Action Group Initiative)

25th September 2023 - First meeting with Matt Vickers at the Derry Long Newton. Matt agreed to take this forward and raise in the house. (Action Group Initiative)

10th October 2023 - E mailed MB asking for update on response to the feedback questionnaires submitted (Action Group Initiative)

29th October 2023 - E mailed MB asking about response to the 300+ response questionnaires. Received a response saying they had been compiled and would be included in a document along with the DCO submission end of January 2024. (Action Group Initiative)

1st November 2023 - MB replied repeating his response from email of 9.08.2023 (JBM Initiative)

21st November 2023 - E mailed MB asking about Stockton open day event. Further details in Appendix 1. (Action Group Initiative)

9th November 2023- JBM issue letters statutory consultation under planning act 2008 sections 42(1) (d) and 44 Duty to consult to all properties lining the main road through Bishopton Village highlighting their subsoil interest under the road and likelihood of compulsory acquisition of these rights to allow cable routing. Another clear example of JBM telling us what will be happening. (JBM Initiative)

22-23rd November 2023- JBM contracted a door to door data collection company to carry out a survey of Bishopton Great Stainton and surrounding villages to further canvas opinion of residents. This survey was carried out on a weekday during the

day when most people would be at work. The results of this survey have not been shared by JBM. (JBM Initiative)

23rd November 2023 - MB replied confirming they would be in attendance from 09:00 to 16:00. (JBM Initiative)

25th November 2023 - Stockton Market Place open day session JBM cleared off early and didn't supply correct location. This meant that many residents who attended were not heard. (JBM Initiative)

29th November 2023 - JBM webinar hosted by Michael Baker. See examples below in Appendix 2. (JBM Initiative)

07th December 2023 - Matt Vickers raises specific question in the house with reference to Byers Gill and Penny Mordant agrees to further debate. (Action Group Initiative)

13th December 2023 - JBM finally agree to meeting with the Parish councils Bishopton & Great Stainton only. BVAG were invited to attend (MOM available)

At this meeting JBM were directly asked if they would engage in further meaningful discussion and engagement with the local community. They agreed to take this back to RWE parent company and ask. Unsure why a pro active developer would need to ask about further consultation perhaps another avoidance tactic to ensure minimal consultation. (Action Group Initiative)

14th December 2023 - JBM meeting at Great Stainton, this meeting mirrored the BPC meeting with JBM presenting the same vague information and throughout the meeting JBM did not take any notes. (Action Group Initiative)

JBM have not to date reacted to any of the points raised. Land classification and methods of testing were raised by local farmers who questioned where/when and number of test holes.

Further comment made by local farmers regarding maintenance/upkeep and repair of field drains which due to the nature of the land are needed. The issue also raised the question regarding as to how JBM would provide this necessary facility when accurate records do not exist. JBM stated they did not intend to do any work on Field Drains or indeed locate them to prevent construction damage. The areas affected by these schemes regular flood and roads are closed. Lack of field drains will add to the flooding problems currently being experienced by residents.

19th December 2023 E mailed MB asking for response to the questions posed at the parish council meeting above (Action Group Initiative)

9th January 2024 - MB responded and attached formal reply from RWE just repeating the same line as all previous correspondence that they would include the response in the final DCO submission and that there would be no further consultation or engagement with the community as a whole Copy of RWE response in Appendix 5 Response received that no further engagement directly with the community would be possible (JBM Initiative)

19th January 2024 - Meeting with Paul Howell at his constituency office in Newton Aycliffe he agreed to liaise with Matt Vickers and present further questions in the house specific to Byers Gill and follow up on the questions raised on 7.12.2023. (Action Group Initiative)

5. Conclusion

There has been no genuine commitment to community engagement and the consultation has been an information giving presentation. Explaining to us what will happen rather than what could be achieved by genuine and meaningful engagement with the various communities, adversely affected by this massive industrial scale development. Combined with the numerous other adjacent developments some of which will be visible from Byers Gill sites it will change forever the rural nature of the local countryside into a large-scale power generation zone.

The only benefit to some of the community will be the large rents paid to local, largely non-resident, landowners not affected by the development. The local authority will benefit from the huge business rates they will receive from this industrial power generation scheme.

The paltry sums being offered as community funding are tiny compared to those already in place and annually being used from existing wind farms. These are again compliance with a requirement rather than a genuine meaningful engagement to provide any benefit to the community.

This is why JBM do not have and will never have any support whatsoever from the communities involved. If the development is approved, it will be implemented against the will of all residents across the entire region. Another example of planning enforcement rather than discussion.

There have been many factual inaccuracies in basically all of JBMs documents. Secondly, they have not answered any of the residents key concerns whatsoever. Health and Safety, cumulative effect, fire, damage to foundations, crime....all of these are legitimate and serious concerns.

JBM have not given any answers/responses on any of these and so the consultation has not answered the residents concerns.

[Appendix.1](#) Questions asked not answered & Stockton Consultation

From: Michael Baker [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Byers Gill

Date: 13 December 2023 at 09:36

To: Martin Philpott [REDACTED]

Dear Martin,

I apologise for the confusion caused by this administrative error.

Regarding the organisation of another event, although we have no plans on hosting another drop-in event, our team will be attending events with Parish Councils in the coming week.

13th December – Bishopton 14th December – Great Stainton

We encourage you to attend these meetings to get to know more of our proposals and community benefits offers.

We have noted your unanswered questions over the webinar, regarding RWE's wider portfolio and the subsoil consultation.

As we have stated previously, our preference with the cable route is to avoid going through Bishopton. However, as the land agreements to go through fields are not finalised, we are having to continue exploring both options for the DCO.

Regarding the broader RWE projects, RWE have set targets to phase out coal by 2030 and to get to Net Zero by 2040.

We are conscious of the other solar farms going ahead in the area, and we are closely monitoring the progress of those developments and exploring possibilities of collaboration and construction coordination. However, due to the nature of cabling and National Grid requirements, it is unlikely we will be able to share infrastructure in this instance. A map of projects was produced in advance of the statutory consultation earlier this year, and can be found here

[Figure-13.2-Short-List-of-Committed- Developments.pdf \(byersgillsolarfarm.co.uk\)](#).

In regard to BESS, RWE/JBM Solar is following all planning and industries guidelines to safeguard the safety of those living next to our installations.

The prevention methods in place within the units are:

Minimum distance of 300m from any residential properties; in most cases it is further.

Heating, Ventilation and Cooling systems

Battery Management Systems to detect changes down to individual battery cell level. These would shut off the system if any changes are detected

Fire suppression systems within the unit

We have consulted with the local fire authority to ensure that access arrangements are suitable and regarding the measures in place to avoid any battery fires. These measures will be contained in the Outline Battery Safety Management Plan which would be available as part of the application.

Regarding our approach to biodiversity and safeguarding the environment, you can access more information in the [chapter 6 of our preliminary environmental information report \(PEIR\)](#). In our assessment that will be available in the application documents, the proposals would result in 94% biodiversity net gain.

We appreciate your concerns and we are committed to answer every question you may have.

If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate in contacting our team at this same email address or at [REDACTED] Kind regards, Michael Baker

From: Martin Philpott [REDACTED]
To: Michael Baker [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2023 1:26 PM
Subject: Byers Gill

Good afternoon, Michael,

My partner and I had planned to visit Stockton on Saturday afternoon however we now understand that you advertised the wrong venue and hours of availability due to an administrative error. Considering this error are you planning to hold another event?

From yesterday's webinar, it was disappointing that you were not able to provide more detail in your answers to the concerns raised and to learn that we will have to wait until the DCO is submitted before much of the requested information is available. Surely in terms of process and engagement with the community it would be better for you to share all information ahead of the DCO submission in order that interested parties can provide feedback.

Unfortunately, my questions that originated from the feedback form were not answered on the webinar so have emailed as requested.

Regarding our concern raised about the cumulative impact on the local area, residents' wellbeing and potential disruption this was in relation to both the volume of solar farms in the local area and the clustering of solar farms due to grid connectivity at the Letch Lane sub-station.

As you are aware in all there are currently 8 solar farms at various stages from proposed, passed planning, being constructed and fully operational in the local area. Byers Gill is by far the largest solar farm > 1300 acres, and if passed will further intensify the harm to the local landscape by infilling the area between the other solar farms from Whinfield Solar near Brafferton through to Long-pasture Solar Farm near Sadberge and California Solar Farm near Carlton.

This will mean that there would be over 2500 acres of solar farms concentrated in the countryside between the towns of Newton Aycliffe, Darlington and Stockton-On-Tees which would then surround the villages of Great Stainton, Little Stainton, Bishopton, Redmarshall, Carlton and Sadberge.

In order that we can better understand how Byers Gill fits in with these other schemes can you please advise if you will be producing a plan showing Byers Gill and the other solar farms in the locality?

Will Byers Gill share any cable runs with any of the other solar farms?

Will the construction of Byers Gill be taking place at the same time as any of the other solar farms in the area are being constructed? And if so how do you intend to minimise the impact?

Fire safety was not the only Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) hazard that we raised concerns about, we also expressed concern about potential harm from battery explosions.

Can you advise how of you proposed to safeguard public health, property, and the environment from incidents of battery explosion?

Similarly, we raised concerns about the toxic gases given off by thermal runaway / battery fires.

Can you advise how you proposed to safeguard public health, property and the environment from the effects of toxic gases from battery fires?

From your booklet I understand that each container will have automatic fire control.

Can you advise what controls are going to be in place to protect the environment and prevent ground pollution from toxic runoff during the period in instances when the automatic fire control system is in operation or when the fire service is extinguishing a battery fire?.

I look forward to receiving you reply. Regards, Martin

Appendix. 2

Webinar selective questions answered.

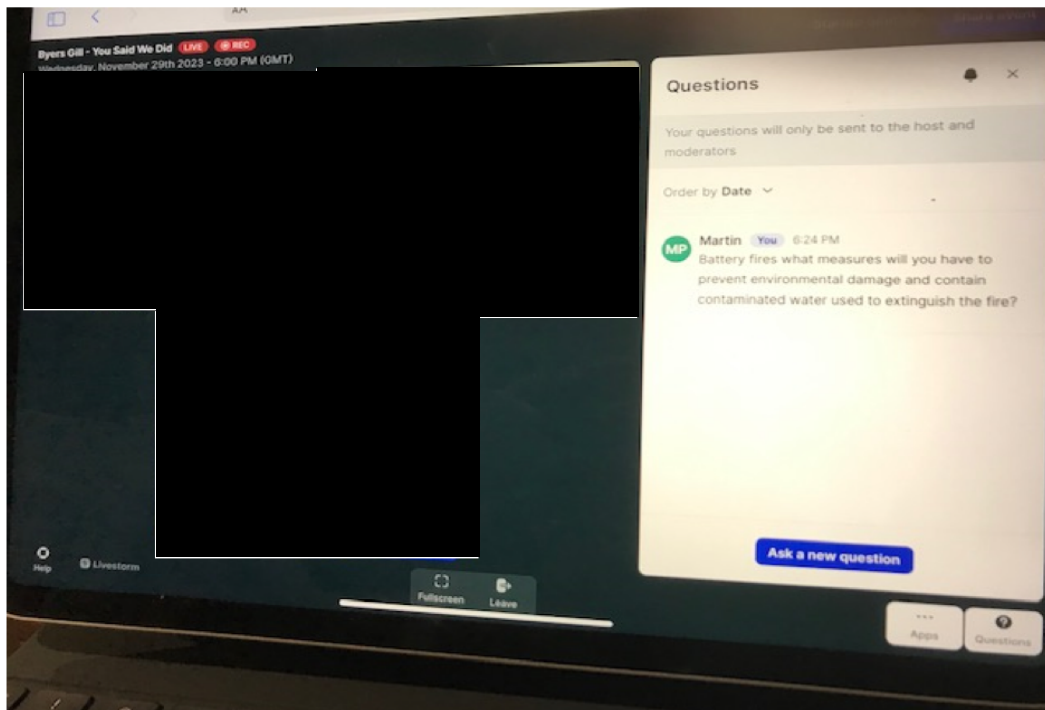
JBM Byers Gill Webinar 29/11/2023

Below screen shot of Martin Philpott's question posted at 18:24.

Asking about battery fires and what measures JBM would put in place to prevent environmental damage and contain contaminated water used to extinguish the fire.

This question was not selected by JBM.

After speaking to other residents who were on the webinar it was apparent there questions were also not selected leaving the perception that questions "selected" were staged by JBM to suit the topics they wanted rather than those that the residents had asked.



Appendix. 3

Bishopton Village Residents Survey

Address	Are you aware of the proposed Byers Gill Solar Farm		Are you in favour of the proposed Byers Gill Solar Farm		Do you support Bishopton Villages Action Group?		Signature	Date	Email Address (Optional)
	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N			
Anesty Court	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
House No 1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			17/5/23	
House No 2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			10/5/	
House No 3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			10/5	
House No 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			10/5	
House No 5									
House No 6	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			10/5/23	
House No 7									
Bishopton Mill Farm, Whitton Village									
Bishopton Mill Farm	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			10/5/23	
Glebe Farm									
Glebe Farm Annexe									
Stoneriggs									
Stone Farm									
Stoney Flatt Farm									
Stoney Flatt Quarry									

Address	Are you aware of the proposed Byers Gill Solar Farm		Are you in favour of the proposed Byers Gill Solar Farm		Do you support Bishopton Villages Action Group?		Signature	Date	Email Address (Optional)
	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N			
The Croft									
Talbot Hotel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			10/5/23	
<i>The Green</i>									
2 Bishopton House	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			10-5-23	
4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			10/5/23	
6	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			17/5/23	
8	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			17/5/23	
10	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			10-5-23	
12	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			10-5-23	
14									
18B <i>Michelle Larder</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			02/05/23	
18A									
20A									
18 Brookside Farm									
20 Manor Farm	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		07/05/23		

Address	Are you aware of the proposed Byers Gill Solar Farm		Are you in favour of the proposed Byers Gill Solar Farm		Do you support Bishopton Villages Action Group?		Signature	Date	Email Address (Optional)	
	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N				
Cobby Castle Lane										
1										
2										
3										
4 Louisa Wall	✓				✓	✓		10-5-23		
5	✓				✓	✓		28/5/23		
6	✓				✓	✓				
7										
8 Rachel Wake	✓				N	Y			1/5/23	
House Opposite Playground										
Cobby Castle Forge and Livery										
High Street										
Grange Farm	✓				✓	✓		07/05/23		
Grange Croft										
3										
5	✓				✓	✓		07/05/23		
The Old School House										

Address	Are you aware of the proposed Byers Gill Solar Farm		Are you in favour of the proposed Byers Gill Solar Farm		Do you support Bishopton Villages Action Group?		Signature	Date	Email Address (Optional)	
	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N				
St Peters Wynd										
1 Burton Holgate House	✓				✓	✓		07/05/23		
2 Ford House	✓				✓	✓		10/5/23		
3 De Mersk House	✓				✓	✓		07/05/23		
4 Alberic House	✓				✓	✓		07/05/23		
5 Thirkeld House	✓				✓	✓		10/5/23		
6 Errington House										
The Green										
West End	✓				✓	✓			10/5/23	
1										
3B	✓				✓	✓			10/5/23	
3A	✓				✓	✓			10/5/23	
3 Ray Wallace	✓				✓	✓		01/05/23		
5 Honeybee Cottage	✓				✓	✓		10/5/23		
7										
9 Sundial Cottage	✓				✓	✓		17/5/23		
11	✓				✓	✓		14/5/23		

Address	Are you aware of the proposed Byers Gill Solar Farm		Are you in favour of the proposed Byers Gill Solar Farm		Do you support Bishopton Villages Action Group?		Signature	Date	Email Address (Optional)
	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N			
7									
8	✓			✓	✓			17/5/23	
9									
10	✓			✓	✓			10/5/23	
11	✓			✓	✓			10/5/23	
12									
13									
14									
15									
16	✓			✓	✓			20/5/23	
17									
18									
19	✓			✓	✓			20/5/23	
21	✓			✓	✓			20/5/23	

Address	Are you aware of the proposed Byers Gill Solar Farm		Are you in favour of the proposed Byers Gill Solar Farm		Do you support Bishopton Villages Action Group?		Signature	Date	Email Address (Optional)
	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N			
Town Farm Close									
1 JANE MASON	✓			✓	✓			24/5/23	
2 Andrew Gowling	✓			✓	✓			10.5.23	
3	✓			✓	✓			20/5/23	
4									
5	✓			✓	✓			20/5/23	
6									
7	✓			✓	✓			20/5/23	
8 STYLA JUDITH TINGLE	✓			✓	✓			10.5.23	
9 MARK SMITH	✓			✓	✓				
10	✓			✓	✓			10/5/23	
11									
12 ROBERT BOWEN	✓			✓	✓			~	~
13									
14									
15 JON COOPER	✓			✓	✓			10/5/23	
16 JOE McMANUS	✓			✓	✓		20/5/23		

Appendix. 4

RWE

Mark Smith
To members of Bishopton Villages Action Group.

Via email
9th January 2024

Dear Mark,

Thank you for your email on 19th December regarding further consultation on Byers Gill Solar.

We have read and listened to the Action Group's objection to Byers Gill Solar. We understand there is an objection in principle to the location of the solar panel areas. The changes made following our latest consultation have sought to address some of the issues raised, including reducing the size of the proposed development. However, we would be unable to change or remove these areas at the scale highlighted in response to the consultation, so the best place for the Group's concerns to be addressed is through the Development Consent Order (DCO) planning process.

The consultation that took place between Friday 5th May and Friday 16th June complied with our published [Statement of Community Consultation \(SoCC\)](#). In developing the SoCC, we consulted with and had regard to comments from the following local planning authorities:

- Darlington Borough Council;
- Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council; and
- Durham County Council

Our engagement methods, including activities and materials available for the statutory consultation, are set out in Table 5.1 in the SoCC.

We understand the importance of community input and have sought to address concerns raised during the consultation in the Summer 2023, including actively informing the community of the changes to the project following the consultation. We posted an update to those in our Primary Consultation Zone (PCZ) of 2,700 addresses, published 3 explanatory videos on our website and social media, and attended Parish Council meetings to inform the community of the updated design.

Our regard to the questionnaire responses received will be explained in full in an appendix of the consultation report, which will be available after our DCO application has been submitted.

When the application has been submitted, RWE can provide a printed copy of all application documents for Bishopton Villages Action Group, alongside a guide to the application documentation.

If this would be of help, please let me know the most appropriate location to send it to. The application documents will also be made available online on the Planning Inspectorates website, and on the Byers Gill Solar website. The community relations team

RWE Renewables GmbH Corporate Communications & Public Affairs | RWE Platz 4 | 45141 Essen | Germany





will be available to help direct residents to the most appropriate documentation as requested. We can be contacted via email (enquiries@byersgillsolar.com), phone ([REDACTED]), or post (FREEPOST BYERS GILL SOLAR, no stamp required).

While we are not able to comply with your request to pause the application, we are committed to ongoing communication and addressing any specific questions that the community may have. I have consulted within RWE in preparing this response.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Baker

BA (Hons) DipTP MRTPI

RWE

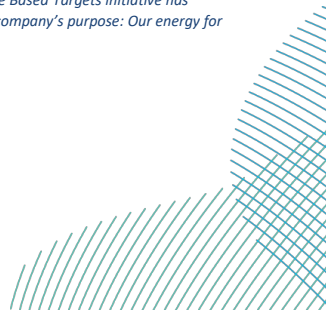
Development Project Manager

RWE

RWE is leading the way to a green energy world. With an extensive investment and growth strategy, the company will expand its powerful, green generation capacity to 50 gigawatts internationally by 2030. RWE is investing €50 billion gross for this purpose in this decade. The portfolio is based on offshore and onshore wind, solar, hydrogen, batteries, biomass and gas.

RWE Supply & Trading provides tailored energy solutions for large customers. RWE has locations in the attractive markets of Europe, North America and the Asia-Pacific region. The company is responsibly phasing out nuclear energy and coal. Government-mandated phaseout roadmaps have been defined for both of these energy sources. RWE employs around 19,000 people worldwide and has a clear target: to get to net zero by 2040. On its way there, the company has set itself ambitious targets for all activities that cause greenhouse gas emissions. The Science Based Targets initiative has confirmed that these emission reduction targets are in line with the Paris Agreement. Very much in the spirit of the company's purpose: Our energy for a sustainable life.

RWE Renewables GmbH Group Corporate Communications & Public Affairs | RWE Platz 4 | 45141 Essen | Germany



The project in principle:

1. Do you support the use of solar farms as part of the mix of renewable electricity generation required to meet the UK Government's commitment to achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050?

Strongly support Support Neutral Oppose Strongly oppose Don't know

Please provide any comments explaining your response to question 1:

THE USE OF SOLAR POWER GENERATION NEEDS TO BE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED AS PART OF THE MIX. ITS INHERENT POOR EFFICIENCY & LOW AVAILABILITY WILL ONLY EVER ALLOW IT TO BE PART OF THE OVERALL SOLUTION. SOLAR POWER GENERATION SITES NEED TO BE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED DUE TO THEIR CONSIDERABLE SIZE & SIGNIFICANT VISUAL IMPACT. GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES SUCH AS ROOF TOP & CAR PARK SOLAR WHICH IS MANDATORY IN OTHER COUNTRIES SHOULD ALWAYS BE THE PREFERRED OPTION. SUFFICIENT COMMERCIAL ROOF SPACE IS AVAILABLE TO MEET THE ENTIRE UK COMMITMENT TO SOLAR POWER GENERATION.

2. Do you support the Byers Gill Solar Farm project?

Yes, wholly support Yes, but I have some concerns Neutral No, but I support the development of solar farms generally No, not at all Don't know

Please provide any comments explaining your response to question 2:

NO EXPLANATION NEEDED ITS SIMPLY WRONG!

Site layout and design

Byers Gill Solar would be made up of six panel areas (A – F), located between Darlington and Stockton-on-Tees. It would generate 180MW alternating current of electricity and would be connected to the national grid via an on-site substation and an existing substation in Norton.

For more information on each Panel Area, please see pages 13-18 of our consultation booklet.

3. Do you have any comments on the overall site layout?

THE OVERALL SITE LAYOUT GIVES NO CONSIDERATION TO LOCAL RESIDENTS & BUSINESSES. SOLAR POWER STATIONS IN OTHER LOCATIONS ARE LOCATED AWAY FROM HOMES & RURAL BUSINESSES DEPENDENT ON MAINTAINING A RURAL ENVIRONMENT WHICH WILL BE LOST FOREVER. ALONG MAIN ROADS i.e. MOTORWAYS & PRINCIPAL A ROADS & ON BROWNFIELD INDUSTRIAL SITES.

4. Do you have any specific comments about Panel Areas A-F? Please specify which panel area(s) you are commenting on.

PANEL AREA F COMPLETELY ENCRUILES THE SOUTHERN/ ASPECT OF BISHOPTON VILLAGE ENCRUICHING THE SCHOOL & DESTROYING MOST RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES VISUAL ASPECTS. THE PROPOSED TAKEN MITIGATION WILL NOT BE EFFECTIVE WITHIN THE LIFETIME OF MANY RESIDENTS

Underground cables would be used to connect the Panel Areas up to the on-site infrastructure and to the national grid. The exact location of some of the cable routes is still to be determined, and potential cable routes can be seen on pages 24-25 of the consultation booklet.

5. Do you have any comments on the potential cable routes shown for Byers Gill Solar? Please describe any specific areas of the site if relevant.

THE CABLE ROUTES PARTICULARLY THE ON ROAD OPTION WILL CAUSE SERIOUS ACCESS PROBLEMS DURING CONSTRUCTION FOR ALL RESIDENTS & BUSINESSES IN CARLTON, REDMARSHAL, BISHOPTON, BRAFFERTON, GREAT STAMTON, LITTLE STAMTON, STILLINGTON & MORE. THIS COMBINED WITH THE NUMEROUS OTHER SOLAR POWER STATION DEVELOPMENTS WILL RESULT IN TRAFFIC CHAOS. THE EXISTING ROAD CONDITIONS ALREADY IN VERY POOR REPAIR WILL ONLY GET WORSE RESULTING IN US BEING TRAPPED IN OUR OWN LOCATIONS.

Byers Gill Solar would include the supporting infrastructure necessary for the operation of a solar farm. This includes an on-site substation, battery storage, access roads, and security measures such as fencing and CCTV.

6. Do you have any comments on the supporting infrastructure required for Byers Gill Solar Farm?

BYERS GILL SOLAR POWER STATION DEVELOPMENT WILL COMPLETELY CHANGE THE VERY NATURE OF THIS RURAL LOCATION FOR THE REST OF OUR LIVES. 2.5M HIGH SECURITY FENCING CCTV CAMERAS, TRANSMISSION MASTS, INCREASED CRIME ALREADY BEING EXPERIENCED AT OTHER SOLAR POWER STATIONS, WILL RESULT IN AN INDUSTRIAL LANDSCAPE WITH NO CONCERN FOR RESIDENTS. HOW CAN THIS BE ALLOWED WE HAVE TO JUMP THROUGH PLANNING HOOPS TO DECIDE WHAT COLOUR WINDOWS OR ROOF TILES WE ARE ALLOWED IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THE VISUAL CHARACTER OF THIS CONSERVATION VILLAGE. THIS POWER STATION DEVELOPMENT SEEMS TO BE ABLE TO IGNORE ANY PLANNING

BYERS GILL SOLAR: FEEDBACK QUESTIONNAIRE

RULES MAKING A COMPLETE MOCKERY OF PLANNING REGULATIONS. 3

Landscape and environmental design

Our proposals for Byers Gill Solar include our suggested approach to minimise our impact on the environment and the local community, and to help enhance the rich biodiversity within the local environment. On pages 6-23 of the consultation booklet, we have explained our approach to mitigating impacts of the Byers Gill Solar farm on the environment and the local community.

7. Do you have any comments on our landscape and environmental design? Please make your comments in relation to each of the topics below where applicable.

a. Landscape and visual (please refer to pages 6-7 of the consultation booklet for more information)

CHAPTER 2-0 IN PIER DOCUMENTS SHOW TYPICAL FENCE HEIGHT AS 2.0M. SOLAR PV ARRAYS ARE 4.0M HIGH HOW WILL THIS SCREEN. FENCES ARE DETAILED AS TIMBER POST & WIRE WILL THEY LAST 40 YEARS CCTV SYSTEMS ARE SO CLOSE TO RESIDENTIAL AREAS, LESS THAN 100M IN MANY CASES SURELY THIS IS AN INVASION OF PRIVACY. WILL TRANSMITTER MASTS INTERFERE WITH OTHER SYSTEMS IE MOBILE PHONE & BROADBAND SIGNALS. THIS IS THE ONLY SOLUTION FOR MANY PROPERTIES

b. Biodiversity (please refer to page 20 of the consultation booklet for more information)

YOUR OWN BIO CENSUS DOCUMENT HIGHLIGHTS A NUMBER OF ENDANGERED & OR^{TUCN} RED LIST SPECIES WHOSE HABITATS WILL BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY THIS DEVELOPMENT. THESE INCLUDE LAPWING CURLEW & OTTERS PLUS A NUMBER OF OTHERS. HOW CAN WILD FLOWER PLANTING MITIGATE THE DISTURBANCE/REMOVAL OF THESE SPECIES HABITATS. WHAT WILL THE DETAILED IMPACT ASSESSMENT LOOK LIKE FOR EACH OF THE THREATENED SPECIES.

c. Public rights of way (please refer to page 22 of the consultation booklet for more information)

A PLOW IN A RURAL AREA IS TYPICALLY USED BY THE PUBLIC FOR LEISURE & TO ENJOY THE SURROUNDING COUNTRYSIDE. HOW IS IT POSSIBLE TO DO THIS WHEN WALKING BETWEEN 2M HIGH WIRE FENCES & BEING MONITORED BY CCTV. I AM QUITE TALL AT 1.85 METRES WHAT WILL I SEE?

d. Heritage assets (please refer to page 21 of the consultation booklet for more information)

HOW CAN YOU CLAIM TO ENHANCE ONE OF THE HERITAGE ASSETS BY PROVIDING INFORMATION BOARDS IN A PICNIC AREA ACCESSIBLE ONLY BY ROAD WHEN IN FACT YOU WILL BE COVERING THE WHOLE AIRFIELD SITE IN SOLAR PANELS.

e. Construction impacts (please refer to page 23 of the consultation booklet for more information)

PIER DOCUMENT THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT CH 2 2.7.21 MENTIONS TOP SOIL STRIPPING WHAT DOES THIS MEAN? HOW CAN THE SITE SUPPORT THE SUGGESTED GRAZING OF SHEEP & HENS! & RETURN TO AGRICULTURAL USE IF TOPSOIL IS REMOVED. PLEASE NOTE THERE ARE NUMEROUS FOXES HERE ANY GRAZING HENS WOULD NOT LAST LONG.

f. Other

THE DEVELOPMENT IS LIKELY TO CAUSE NUMEROUS HEALTH ISSUES FOR RESIDENTS. 12 HRS A DAY CONSTRUCTION SITE NOISE & LIGHTING AS DETAILED IN PIER DOCS CHAPTER 2. NO RESEARCH HAS BEEN CARRIED OUT UPON THE EFFECTS OF LIVING CLOSE TO SOLAR POWER GENERATION PLANTS BESS UNITS, SUBSTATIONS ETC. THIS IS WITHOUT CONSIDERING THE STRESS & HARDSHIP CAUSED BY LOSS OF PROPERTY VALUES & INABILITY TO SELL PROPERTIES. LOSS OF AMENITIES & CONSIDERABLE INCONVENIENCE DURING THIS & THE NUMEROUS OTHER SOLAR POWER STATION WITHIN A 5 MILE RADIUS DUE TO ROAD CLOSURES & DIVERSIONS.

Community benefits

Alongside the solar technology, Byers Gill Solar would also provide local community assets, such as an improved public right of way network, an orchard and a new picnic area. Please see page 5 of the consultation booklet for further information on our proposed community benefits.

8. Do you have any suggestions on how we can provide community benefits through Byers Gill Solar?

THE BIGGEST COMMUNITY BENEFIT WOULD BE TO LOCATE THIS POWER STATION DEVELOPMENT WHERE IT DOES NOT:

- REMOVE PUBLIC AMENITY
- ADVERSELY AFFECT VISUAL AMENITY
- ADD TO THE NUMEROUS OTHER SOLAR POWER STATION DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN A 5 MILE RADIUS
- PROVOKE OVERWHELMING COMMUNITY OPPOSITION TO THE DEVELOPMENT
- DISRUPT THE DAY TO DAY LIVES OF MANY HUNDREDS OF LOCAL RESIDENTS & COMMUTERS PASSING THROUGH.
- REMOVE OR DESTROY MANY NATURAL HABITATS OF BOTH PROTECTED & ENDANGERED SPECIES

Operation and decommissioning

9. Do you have any comments on the operation or decommissioning of Byers Gill Solar?

AS AN EXPERIENCED OIL & GAS INDUSTRY PROFESSIONAL ANY PROJECT DOCUMENTATION MUST INCLUDE DETAILED & COSTED PROPOSALS EXPLAINING HOW THE DE-COMMISSIONING WOULD TAKE PLACE, POSSIBLE CANDIDATES CAPABLE OF DE-COMMISSIONING THE PLANT, HANDLING HAZARDOUS WASTE MATERIALS ETC.

NONE OF THIS IS SHOWN YET. THIS SHOULD INCLUDE A PROTECTED COSTING BASED ON CURRENT TENDERS FROM SUITABLE CANDIDATES.

GIVEN THE SCALE OF THIS & THE NUMEROUS OTHER DEVELOPMENTS THIS IS A SIGNIFICANT ISSUE.

Preliminary environmental information report (PEIR)

The PEIR includes information about our plans for Byers Gill Solar and identifies its potential environmental effects, based on a preliminary assessment. More information about this can be found on pages 10-11 of the consultation booklet.

10. Do you have any comments on the methodology and/or preliminary assessments in the PEIR? Where possible, please specify the environmental topic area(s) you are commenting on.

VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT.

PEIR CHAPTER 7 PEIR APPENDIX 7-3 APPENDIX 7-5-1F.

THIS DIAGRAM SHOWS THE 100M CONSIDERATION ZONE FOR VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT THERE IS A KEY ITEM SHOWING GARDENS FALLING WITHIN 100M ZONE. MY GARDEN AT A TOWN FARM CLOSE FALLS WITHIN THE 100M ZONE AND IS NOT SHOWN.

FOLLOWING DISCUSSIONS WITH MARY AT THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION DAY ON 24.5.23 I WISH TO HIGHLIGHT THIS

IT ALSO SEEMS VERY CONVENIENT THAT THE 100 M ZONE STOPS VERY CLOSE TO THE MAJORITY OF NORTH FACING PROPERTIES WHO WILL BE FACED WITH THE SOUTHERLY ORIENTED PV PANELS.

I APPRECIATE A LINE HAS TO BE DRAWN SOMEWHERE BUT ANOTHER 70-80M WOULD IN FACT INCLUDE MANY MORE PROPERTIES.

Any other comments

11. Do you have any other comments you wish to make about Byers Gill Solar?

ONE ITEM WHICH I REALISE IS NOT CONSIDERED A PLANNING CONCERN BUT IS A VERY REAL AND SIGNIFICANT ASPECT OF THIS DEVELOPMENT. WE WILL EFFECTUALLY BE UNABLE TO SELL OUR HOMES SHOULD THE NEED ARISE. THIS IS ALREADY BEING FELT WITH A NUMBER OF PROSPECTIVE BUYERS DROPPING OUT OF SALES AS A RESULT OF THE POWER STATION DEVELOPMENTS SURROUNDING THE ONCE PICTURESOME VILLAGE

OTHER NSIP SUCH AS HS2 PROVIDE COMPENSATION TO RESIDENTS WHOSE PROPERTIES ARE ADVERSLY AFFECTED.

AS MENTIONED THERE ARE A NUMBER OF EXAMPLES OF THIS HAPPENING ALREADY AND LOWER THAN MARKET VALUE OFFERS BEING MADE.

AFTER A LIFETIME OF IMPROVING & MAINTAINING OUR HOMES YOU ARE TAKING AWAY THE POSSIBILITY OF US BEING ABLE TO MOVE & THE FUTURE OF THE VILLAGE IS SIGNIFICANTLY THREATENED. WOULD YOU WANT TO LIVE IN A VILLAGE SURROUNDED BY POWER STATIONS.

Appendix. 6

SECTION 48 PLANNING ACT 2008

REGULATION 4 INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (APPLICATIONS: PRESCRIBED FORMS AND PROCEDURE) REGULATIONS 2009

DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER AT BYERS GILL

NOTICE PUBLICISING A PROPOSED APPLICATION FOR A DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER ("DCO")

Notice is hereby given that JBM Solar Limited ("the Applicant") of 33 Broadwick St, London W1F 0DQ intends to apply to the Secretary of State under section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 ("the Act") for a Development Consent Order ("DCO") to authorise the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of a solar farm capable of generating over 50MW Alternating Current (AC) of electricity with co-located Battery Energy Storage System ("BESS"), located between Darlington and Stockton-on-Tees in north-east England (the "Proposed Development"). The Proposed Development's site area is approximately 563 hectares and comprises six solar photovoltaic (PV) panel areas (Panel Areas A-F). An on-site substation would be located within Panel Area C.

The Proposed Development would comprise:

- up to 21 km of 33kilovolt (kV) underground cabling between the Panel Areas and the on-site substation;
- approximately 10km of 132kV underground cable to connect the Proposed Development to the grid connection at the existing Norton substation (located to the north-west of Stockton-on-Tees);
- supporting infrastructure comprising BESS; transformers and inverters for managing the electricity produced; storage containers to hold this equipment; and security measures such as fencing, CCTV and lighting; and
- environmental mitigation and enhancement measures to avoid or reduce adverse impacts on the surrounding environment and nearby communities.

While the Proposed Development could include compulsory acquisition powers, the Applicant is seeking to avoid the use of such powers if at all possible.

The Proposed Development is an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development for the purposes of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. This means that the proposed works involved constitute development for which an EIA is required and the proposed application for a DCO will therefore be accompanied by an Environmental Statement. Additionally, the Applicant will be making preliminary environmental information available.

Copies of the PEIR, together with a Non-Technical Summary, our Statement of Community Consultation and other consultation documents, plans and maps detailing our consultation process and details of the Proposed Development may be inspected free of charge until 23:59pm on Friday 16 June 2023 on the project website (www.byersgillsolarfarm.co.uk) and at the following location:

Location	Day of opening	Opening times
Norton Library - 87 High St, Norton, Stockton-on-Tees TS20 1AE	Monday	9.30am – 5pm
	Tuesday	
	Thursday	
	Wednesday	9.30am – 7pm
	Friday	
	Saturday	9.30am – 1pm
	Sunday	Closed

Copies of the consultation materials may be requested during the consultation period from the Applicant free of charge (excluding the PEIR which will have a cost of £0.35 per page) using the email address, postal address or telephone number provided below:

- Telephone: 0800 197 0018
- Email: enquiries@byersgillsolar.com
- Freepost*: Byers Gill Solar

*No stamp is required.

Any person may comment on the proposals or otherwise respond to this publicity. Responses must be received between **Friday 5 May and Friday 16 June 2023**.

A consultation feedback questionnaire is available as part of the consultation materials, and online at www.byersgillsolarfarm.co.uk. When providing your response, please include your name and address, or, if you would prefer your comments to be anonymous, your postcode online. Please supply any response by submitting your completed feedback form online, or by using the contact methods above.

Responses must be received no later than 11.59pm on Friday 16 June 2023.

JBMsolar will consider and have regard to all responses when refining the Proposed Development once the consultation has closed. Responses will form the basis of a Consultation Report that will be one of the factors taken into consideration by the Secretary of State when deciding whether the Application can be accepted for examination. Therefore, in providing any comment, it should be borne in mind that the substance of it may be communicated to others as part of the Consultation Report. If you would like further information about this notice, the consultation or the Proposed Development, please contact the project team by using one of the contact methods provided above.

Michael Baker
DCO Project Manager, Byers Gill Solar
Email: michael.baker@jbm-solar.com
(Friday 5 May 2023)

Appendix. 7

Separate file titled. "Summary Table.pdf"