

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Byers Gill Solar](#)  
**Subject:** Interested Party Reference Number 20048022 & BGSF-AFP396  
**Date:** 08 August 2024 18:55:26

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Sir,

I appear to have 2 different Interested Party Reference numbers, so I have quoted both in the heading. Customer services could not advise me on this.

I attended the 2 meetings (The Preliminary Meeting & The Issue Specific Meeting) of the 23 July, virtually. I would like to make comments on the discussions that I heard.

1. My major concern remains the loss of productive agricultural land. With erratic climate change affecting yields adversely, food production & security is of increasing importance. There seemed to have been scant or no consideration by the applicant of alternative brownfield/industrial sites that are readily available in the area. As the applicant states that the amount of solar panels have been reduced, it would seem that the alternative sites are plentiful enough in close enough proximity to the Norton Hardwick sub station. Such sites would not have the adverse effects of the current proposals.

2. The Applicant stated that disruption was mitigated by diverting the cables into farmland, directly behind our house, instead of down the road in Bishopton. This might lessen some initial construction impact. However, all construction vehicles will continue to use the rural roads. The Applicant at initial consultation meetings stated that every panel was to be cleaned once a month - for the 40 year life of the solar farm. There will also be other ongoing maintenance requirements. This will therefore generate a great deal of continued industrial traffic for the foreseeable future with adverse effect on the quality of life for all residents.

3. Flooding is already a problem for Bishopton as was mentioned at the meeting. There are in fact 6 alternative routes in & out of the village. In the last year, there have been several occasions when only 1, with considerable diversion to intended direction of travel, has been passable - with care - that is up Folly Bank to Little Stainton. The solar panels will increase the problem of flooding, but the reason for this was not amplified in the meeting. The panels are impervious & shade the ground from rainfall. Rain is therefore concentrated into run off channels which, as already happens, runs off & floods the roads. Baked hard dry ground under the panels cannot rapidly absorb water, so the run off is greater & immediate.

4. Trees will help to absorb rain. However, they will take time to grow, generally at least 10 years, to settle in & begin significant growth rates. Moreover, they are only going to be planted to the north of the panels, to avoid shading. This does nothing to mitigate the appearance from any other direction. A more reasonable approach is to plant on all sides & leave sufficient margin away from the panels. Depending on the species, 15 to 20 metres gap might be sufficient to minimise shade. I received no response from the Applicant to my previous queries on this matter.

Sincerely,

P. Bence.

