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Whilst we accept that there is a need nationally for more clean green renewable power generation. We are concerned, that the local area surrounding Great Stainton there is already a clustering of multiple solar farm projects primarily driven by grid capacity at the Norton substation. The size and scale Byers Gill would further adversely impact the locality by adding to the cumulative effect of an area that is already swamped with wind farm developments.

We also believe that mode of generation is not best suited to the local area (being in the Northeast low light levels and very windy) and had the de facto ban on onshore wind developments not been in place at the time JBM / RWE started the process, the large scale, land hungry solar farm as proposed "Byers Gill" would not have been put forward.

Wind is a more efficient power source than solar. Compared to solar panels, wind turbines release less CO₂ to the atmosphere, consume less energy, and produce more energy overall. In fact, one wind turbine may generate the same amount of electricity as seven football fields of solar panels.

The Conservative government created the ban when Footnotes 57 and 58 of paragraph 163 were added to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). These stated that onshore wind would only be allowed in areas either allocated in a development plan or through Local Development Orders, Neighbourhood Development Orders and Community Right to Build Orders or where the proposal has proven community support – meaning that any opposition could see the proposal rejected.

We understand that the new Labour Government has now removed these two tests, which will mean that onshore wind is treated in the same way as other energy proposals. And that a consultation is being launched on the prospect of onshore wind being brought under the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP) regime.

When considering that if passed Byers Gill would be in operation for 40 years, we believe that it would be unwise to progress with a large scale solar project now that it is possible to consider onshore wind that would use less land and arguably better suited to the local area, with less detrimental impacts to the community at large.