

I like all the residents from Great Stainton am against the construction of Byers Gill as we already have 8 solar farms in a concentrated area locally, the addition of Byers Gill due to its vast size and scale would result in substantial adverse cumulative impact on the surrounding area and the lives of the local community.

In terms of the existing 8 solar farms that are either operational, being constructed or have planning granted we have:

Whinfield Farm, Lime Lane, Brafferton which is 282.6 Acres in size and currently under construction.

Burtree Lane Solar Farm , at Whessoe, north of Darlington which is 153 Acres for which planning permission has been granted

Gately Moor Solar Farm, Redmarshall Road, near Bishopton which is 304.8 Acres

Long Pasture Farm, in-between Little Stainton and Sadberge which is 258 acres and has had planning granted

California Farm near Carlton covering 205 Acres and has had planning permission granted

Low midfield Solar Farm 54 Acres and Thorpe Bank Solar farm 96 Acres both of which are near Thorpe Thewles

Byers Gill is going through the planning application process as a single Solar Farm development, however when you look at the sheer scale of the panels areas, it is actually like adding another 6 solar farms into an area that already saturated with solar farms.

<b>Byers Gill</b>	<b>Size</b>	<b>Size Acres</b>
Panel Area A: Brafferton	114.37 ha	282.61
Panel Area B: Hauxley Farm	52.24 ha	129.1
Panel Area C: Byers Gill Wood	77.16 ha	190.66
Panel Area D: Great Stainton	75.86 ha	187.45
Panel Area E: West of Bishopton	26.63ha	65.80
Panel Area F: North of Bishopton	71.9 ha	177.67
Norton Substation	11.20 ha	27.67

The 6 panel areas A-F that make up Byers Gill are each comparable in size to the individual solar farms that I have previously mentioned, furthermore they are spread across a vast area from Brafferton to Bishopton and would effectively infill the countryside in between the other solar farms in the locality.

The cumulative impact resulting from the sheer scale of the 6 panel areas of Byers Gill combined with the close proximity of the other 8 Solar Farms is just too vast and would mean that there would be an unacceptably high adverse impact on the residents of Great Stainton and the local community. These substantial and significant adverse impacts on residents' lives are not sufficiently mitigated by any stated benefits that RWE have listed in the application, which is why 100% of the residents of Great Stainton are opposed to the development of Byers Gill.

As residents of Great Stainton we are very concerned that recently, despite the planning inspectorate recommending the Secretary of State withhold consent for a similar large scale solar farm as it would create "substantial disbenefits and extensive adverse impact" the Secretary of State ignored the planning inspectorate's recommendation and granted development consent.

So, whilst 100% of the residents of Great Stainton are opposed to the development of Byers Gill, we are also mindful that despite how inappropriate the development is for the local area due to the substantive adverse impact it will have on people's daily lives, any recommendation not to consent by the Exa can be overridden by the Secretary of State.

With this in mind we have recently met with RWE / ARUP to discuss mitigation and priority areas.

The respective landscape and visual impact assessments, RWE's own documentation and the statements of common ground all acknowledge that Byers Gill will have a substantial adverse impact on the residents of Great Stainton.

We have identified land in panel Area D which we want removed as a village due to the close proximity of the panels to the village and residents' properties. And the extent of visibility of the solar panels due to the short distances from people's homes and the undulating lay of the land which means the panels cannot effectively be mitigated with screening.

When we met with RWE / ARUP it was pleasing to learn that they had also identified some of the same priority locations in Area D for panel removal. However, it was also disappointing to hear that despite these areas being identified as priority for removal, that removal would only be considered if improved technology such as more efficient panels were available by the detail design stage of the process.

Subsequently this does not provide the residents of Great Stainton any surety or confidence that the mitigation identified by RWE for this high priority area will take effect resulting in prolonged anxiety and stress.

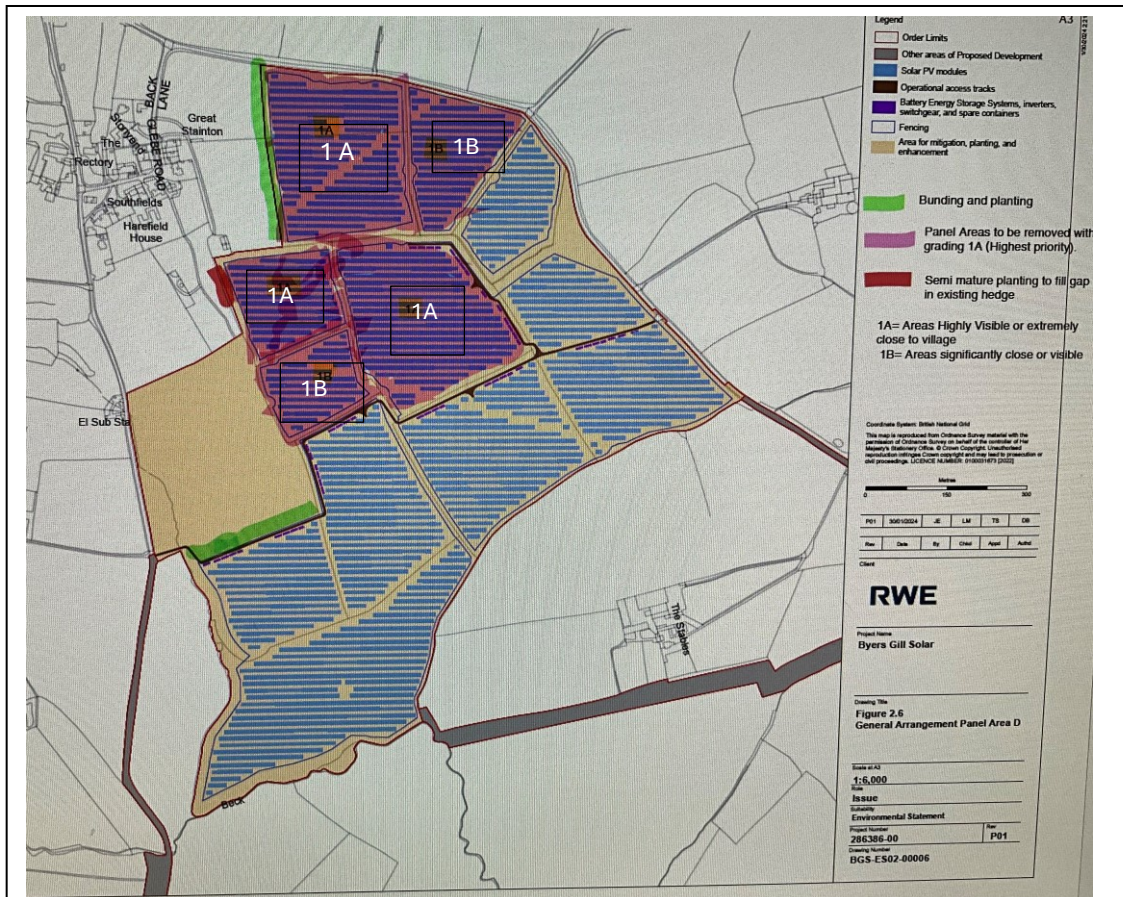
When considering the substantial adverse impact on the residents of Great Stainton and given that the portion of panel area D that we have identified to be removed represents a very small proportion of the overall Byers Gill development.

This would appear to be inline with the policy discussed earlier in today's meeting where a small reduction in function produces a significant benefit, where the benefit in this case is a reduction in the stress and anxiety for the for the residents.

In this respect so we have some surety we would like to request that the Examining Authority have these priority areas (in panel area D) removed from the scheme as a condition in the event planning consent is granted.

(please see drawings below).

Drawing below modified from APP-044 6.3.2.6 Environmental Statement Figure 2.6  
General Arrangement Panel Area D



Area D panel Areas in purple that residents want removed due proximity to the village / residents' properties and / or the extent of visibility.

1A = Areas Highly Visible or extremely close to village

1B = Areas significantly close or visible





Panel Area D , blue lozenge shapes are priority areas that RWE has proposed for removal subject to improved technology such as more efficient panels being available at the point of detail design.