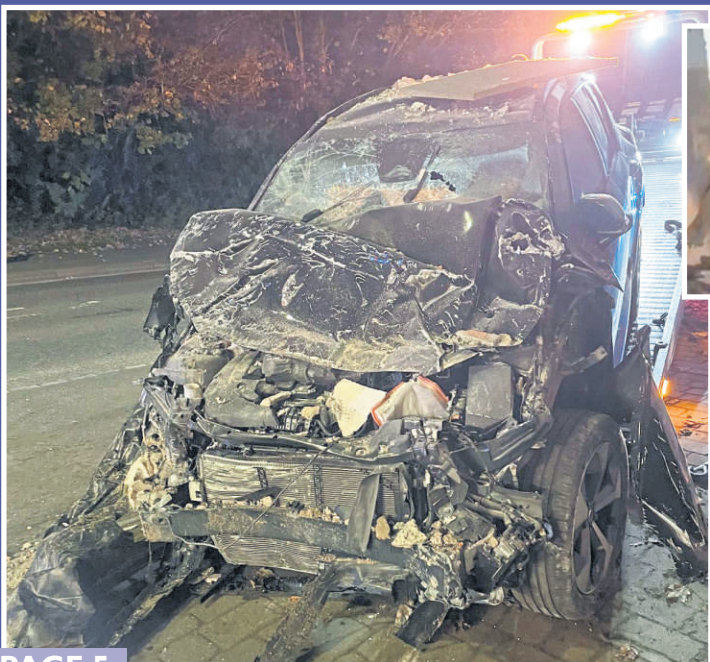


## CAR CRASHES INTO FAMILY HOME



PAGE 5



PAGE 33

**£5 OFF AT DOBBIES**

dobbies garden centres

PAGE 7

**Money for community went to convicts' families**



## VOTE FOR YOUR FAVOURITE CURRY HOUSE PAGE 6



# Shoplifting offences are going unpunished

**More than 7,000 offences occurred over the past year but only 1,500 prosecutions**

THOUSANDS of shoplifting offences in County Durham and Darlington have gone unpunished as traders continue to count the cost of stolen items.

New figures show more than 7,000 offences occurred across the region over the past year, yet only around 1,500 cases resulted in a prosecution.

Durham Constabulary has logged an alarming 23,771 shoplift-

By Bill Edgar

ing offences since April 2021.

Offences reached a high in between April 2023-24 as 7,142 incidents were recorded. However, just 1,657 offences resulted in a charge or summons, according to data obtained by Personal Injury Claims UK.

In some cases, offenders were cautioned and penalty notices

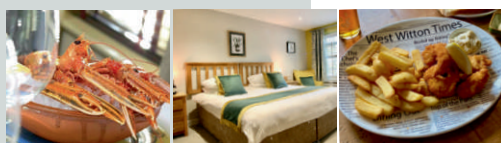
were handed out. Others were resolved by community resolution.

"Shoplifting in Darlington is horrendous and jeopardises people's jobs and shops shut down because of it," said staff at MaxiDeals.

Durham Constabulary said the consequences of the crime mean everyday shoppers are paying more for food and drink.

**FULL STORY: PAGE 4**

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 £200 minimum on any complete large vehicle  
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**PRIVATE NUMBER PLATES REMOVED**  
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**You'd want to know if someone was planning something in your area?**

**Don't be caught out!**

Register with **Public Notice Portal** to save searches and setup email alerts

**Public Notice Portal** Telling you their plans before they become your problems

**You'd want to know if someone was planning to a power station near you, right?**

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Every day applications are made for permission to have a **music, food and entertainment licence.**

The **Public Notice Portal** is a free to use, online service that will tell you who is applying for what and for where. It's free to use and if you register and tell us the area you are interested in, we'll keep checking the updates and will email to tell you about any plans for your community before they become a reality.

Find, save and share **Public Notices** that affect you in your local area.

**Public Notice Portal** Telling you their plans before they become your problems

**Notification of Issue-Specific and Open Floor Hearings under Rule 13(6) of the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010**  
**Byers Gill Solar Development Consent Order**  
 Sections 91 and 93 of the Planning Act 2008  
 Rule 13(6) of the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010

**1 NOTICE OF HEARINGS RELATING TO BYERS GILL SOLAR**

1.1 Notice is hereby given that at the dates, times and locations set out below, three issue specific hearings and a compulsory acquisition hearing will be held by the Examining Authority (appointed by the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero ("the Secretary of State")) for the examination of the application made by RWE by RWE Renewables UK Solar and Storage Limited (registered company number: 14539260) of Windmill Hill Business Park, Whitehill Way, Swindon, Wiltshire, England, SN5 6PB ("the Applicant").

1.2 The Application was made to the Secretary of State (via the Planning Inspectorate) under section 37(2) of the Planning Act 2008 on 9 February 2024 and was accepted by the Planning Inspectorate for examination on 8 March 2024. The Application has been given the Planning Inspectorate reference number: EN010139.

**2 SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT**

2.1 Byers Gill Solar consists 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 is approximately 490ha and comprises six Panel Areas (groups of solar photovoltaic (PV) panels) (Panel Areas A-F). The solar PV panels would be mounted on a metal frame in groups, fixed in position with panels facing south. An on-site substation would be located within Panel Area C.

2.2 The Proposed Development includes up to 32.5km of 33kilovolt (kV) underground cabling between the Panel Areas and the on-site substation, as well as 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). This cabling could be placed either within roads or through off-road options.

2.3 A range of supporting infrastructure is required for the Proposed Development, comprising: BESS; transformers and inverters; storage containers to hold this equipment; and security measures such as fencing, CCTV and lighting.

2.4 As the Proposed Development would be able to generate over 50 megawatts (MW) of electricity, it is considered to be a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) which requires consent through the Development Consent Order (DCO) process. This is an application made to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) and decided by the Secretary of State (SoS) in accordance with the Planning Act 2008.

2.5 A map showing the location of the Proposed Development can be viewed on the Planning Inspectorate's National Infrastructure Planning website at the following address:  
<https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010139/documents>

2.6 The DCO, if granted, would enable the acquisition new rights over land and contain powers for the possession and use of land on a temporary basis (to facilitate the construction of the Proposed Development). The DCO would also authorise the construction of temporary and permanent accesses to the Proposed Development, the temporary stopping up or diversion of public rights of way, street works and highway works, and the application and disapplication of certain legislation.

**3 UPCOMING HEARINGS**

3.1 The Examining Authority's Rule 13 letter, dated 29 October 2024, provides notification that five hearings in relation to the application are to be held at the dates and times set out in the table below.

3.2 All hearings will be held as blended events both in-person at the **Dolphin Centre, Horse Market, Darlington, DL1 5RP** and virtually on **Microsoft Teams**.

3.3 Live streams will also be provided for each Hearing and the link for this will be available on the day via the Byers Gill Solar page of the Planning Inspectorate's website:  
<https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010139>

3.4 Full details of how to attend and speak at the hearings are set out in the Examining Authority's Rule 13 letter available via the website link above.

3.5 Interested Parties wishing to speak at the Hearings listed below should notify the Planning Inspectorate by completing the Event Participation Form. A link to the form will be available within the Rule 13 letter.

3.6 If you require assistance to register your attendance, please contact the Planning Inspectorate by calling 0303 444 5000 or by email [byersgillsolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:byersgillsolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk) and quote the Application's reference number: EN010139.

Date	Hearing Type and Topic(s)	Time
Tuesday 26 November 2024	<b>Issue Specific Hearing 5 (ISH5)</b> • Development Consent Order	Registration and seating available from: 9:00 Virtual Registration Process from: 9:30 Event start: 10:00
Tuesday 26 November 2024	<b>Open Floor Hearing 3 (OFH3)</b>	Registration and seating available from: 13:30 Virtual Registration Process from: 13:30 Event start: 14:00
Tuesday 26 November 2024	<b>Open Floor Hearing 4 (OFH4)</b>	Registration and seating available from: 17:30 Virtual Registration Process from: 17:30 Event start: 18:00
Wednesday 27 November 2024	<b>Issue Specific Hearing (ISH6)</b> on Environmental Matters: • Land Use and Socioeconomics	Registration and seating available from: 9:00 Virtual Registration Process from: 9:30 Event start: 10:00
Wednesday 27 November 2024	<b>Issue Specific Hearing (ISH7)</b> on Environmental Matters: • Cumulative Effects	Registration and seating available from: 13:30 Virtual Registration Process from: 13:30 Event start: 14:00

3.7 Any hearings further to those listed above will be advertised by one or more further notices. In accordance with Rule 13(3) of Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010, as amended, the Planning Inspectorate will also notify interested parties of the date, time and place fixed for each hearing.

3.8 For more information on these hearings, the examination of the Application and full timetable (and any amendments to it), including how and when to register to speak at the hearings and how and when to make written submissions, please contact the Planning Inspectorate using the contact details provided above.

**4 APPLICATION FORM AND ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS**

4.1 The Application form and its accompanying documents (including accompanying plans, maps, the Environmental Statement and Non-Technical Summary, and the draft Order) (together, the "Application Documents") can be viewed and downloaded free of charge online on the Byers Gill Solar page of the Planning Inspectorate's National Infrastructure Planning website under the Documents tab:  
<https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010139/documents>

4.2 The Application Documents can also be viewed and downloaded free of charge on the Applicant's project website:  
<https://byersgillsolarfarm.co.uk/documents/>

4.3 An electronic copy of the Application Documents can also be provided free of charge on a USB memory stick, upon request. To request a USB, please contact the Applicant using the contact details provided below.

4.4 All Application Documents are available for public inspection at the following places and times using a valid library membership:

Venue	Opening hours*
Darlington Library, Crown St, Darlington DL1 1ND	Monday 9 am – 6 pm Tuesday 9 am – 6 pm Wednesday 9 am – 5 pm Thursday 10 am – 6 pm Friday 9 am – 5 pm Saturday 9 am – 4 pm Sunday - Closed
Norton Library, 87 High Street, Norton, TS20 1AE	Monday 9:30 am – 5 pm Tuesday 9:30 am – 5 pm Wednesday 9:30 am – 7 pm Thursday 9:30 am – 5 pm Friday 9:30 am – 7 pm Saturday 9:30 am – 1 pm Sunday - Closed

\*Please note that opening hours are subject to change. Please check and confirm opening times with the venue if planning a visit.

4.5 The full suite of Application documents can be made available in hard copy format on request to the Applicant at a cost of £2,194.00 per copy. For any bespoke or hard copy document requests (for example in large print, audio or braille formats) please contact the Applicant using the contact details below, who will provide the cost. Copies of individual documents are also available on request and a reasonable copying charge may apply.

**Applicant Contact Details**

4.6 If you have any questions about the Application Documents or wish to request copies on a USB, you can email [enquiries@byersgillsolar.com](mailto:enquiries@byersgillsolar.com), write to FREEPOST Byers Gill Solar, or contact the Applicant by telephone on 0800 197 0118.