

Hello. My name is Robert Bowes, I am a resident of Bishopton Village. I will be speaking today about the Cumulative Effects of Byers Gill and specifically referring to documents number APP-102 which is Environmental Statement Figure 13.1 and also APP-103 which is Environmental Statement Figure 13.2 if it would be possible to project the first figure, APP-102 on the screen that would be appreciated.

You can see the black line representing a 10km buffer zone around Byers Gill, showing very little other solar farms and developments in this wider area over 5km. If we go closer in towards Byers Gill if we could possibly show APP-103 on the screen please.

The area that I will be concentrating on is the 5 km buffer zone, the purple dotted line. In this zone we can again see the three counties - Durham County Council, Darlington Borough Council and Stockton On Tees County Council. We can also see this is where the highest concentration of already existing solar farms appear for all three of those counties.

To reiterate, in this 5km buffer zone we have the following already existing solar farms:

#### Durham

DM/20/01991/FPA Cowley House Solar Farm - in construction 49.99mw 87.77ha

DM/21/02816/FPA Whinfield Solar - in construction 31mw 42.3ha

**Total 81mw/130 ha**

#### Stockton On Tees

21/2290/FUL High Meadow 2 - 10.8mw 15ha

20/2131/FUL Thorpe Bank 32mw 38.5ha

20/2692/FUL Low Middlefield Farm 10mw 28.6ha

22/1511/FUL California Farm 49.99mw 87ha

(not on shortlist) High Meadows solar farm (4mw)

**Total 113.29mw/180ha** yet Stockton On Tees Council believe that these do not add to the cumulative effect of solar farms in their Local Impact Report section 7.7. A potential question to them would be why is this? Considering two of these solar farms are only 500m from Byers Gill boundary.

#### Stockton & Darlington

22/00727/FUL Gately Moor 49.99mw 123.37ha

#### Darlington

22/01329/FUL Longpastures 49.99mw 104.5ha

22/00213/FUL Burtree Lane Solar Farm 49.99mw 62ha

**Total 150mw/290ha**

So to summarise this, within a 5km radius of Byers Gill we have already:  
1482 acres of solar farms providing the three counties with a total of 345mw of solar energy which, using RWE estimations, would power over 150,000 homes.

Population of Darlington County is approximately 110,000 people in approx 90,000 dwellings and Stockton On Tees has 74,000 dwellings so all the dwellings in both counties will nearly be able to be powered by all of the solar within this 5km radius. Darlington county has a land area of 358,400 acres and Stockton On Tees has a land area of 49,000 acres, totalling 407,400 acres across the two counties so why do we need to have nearly every single solar farm for both counties (and also one in Durham County!) in a 5km radius (approx 19k acres). Within the 5km radius we also have wind turbines providing over 20mw of energy too.

**So my points to be made after outlining the above is:**

**1) With my own desktop research there are no other Solar Farms that are Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects in the UK which are surrounded by smaller solar farms that are under the 49.99mw threshold. Why here?**

**2) How much more renewable energy can such a small rural area provide for the wider area, isn't it time for other areas in the combined counties to do their part?**