



The countryside charity  
Durham

CPRE Durham

Richard Cowen  
Rose Cottage  
Old Quarrington  
Durham  
DH6 5NN

Telephone [REDACTED]  
Email [REDACTED]@gmail.com  
[www.cpredurham.org.uk](http://www.cpredurham.org.uk)

Patron  
His Majesty The King  
President  
Mary-Ann Ochota  
Chief Executive  
Roger Mortlock  
Crispin Truman OBE

Registration identification 20047831 or 20047832

## **DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER FOR PROPOSED SOLAR ARRAY AT BYERS GILL**

### **Further questions of the Examiners issued 20 December 2024**

I refer to Questions LUS 3.2 and LUS 3.3 relating to the grazing of sheep between solar arrays. We note that only the Applicant has been asked to respond to these questions but we do have the following comments.

While we accept that, at present, not many solar arrays are completed in our area, there have been numerous applications and many raise this point about sheep grazing. We have regularly raised this as an issue when commenting on solar array applications in our area, but accept that we did not mention sheep grazing in our statement submitted to the Examination.

We have consulted with some of our colleagues, particularly in Devon where there are far more solar arrays that are completed.

We have just received the following comment from our colleagues in Devon

“We haven't seen any examples of sheep grazing on large solar farms here. Grass without sun is of poor nutritional quality and only weeds flourish, which need keeping under control with herbicides and mowing.”

We have tried to ascertain what information there is online about this. There is evidence that there are some solar arrays where sheep do graze but these are mainly abroad, either in America or Australia. There is one example from Pembrokeshire where it appears the

farmers had to change the breed of sheep so that they fitted under the panels and that work was carried out to protect the wiring. However, we are not aware of sheep grazing among solar panels being a wide spread activity and represent that the issue does need to be fully assessed.

We also understand that there may be an issue as to who is responsible should sheep damage any of the panels or their supports.

We represent that these issues should be fully considered in determining the benefits or otherwise of this proposed scheme.

Richard Cowen