

Whitlock, Melissa

From: DAVID MARSON <[REDACTED]@btinternet.com>
Sent: 13 December 2024 17:29
To: Helios Renewable Energy
Subject: Open Hearing Day 1 Representation Comments

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Dear [REDACTED],

As asked please see below my representation comments from the Day 1 Open Floor Hearing where I represented not just my own views as a resident but also the members of the HALT Campaign Group.

I am not against Solar per se and neither are the majority of the HALT group, what we do object to is the amount of BMV agricultural land that the Helios Solar Farm would take up for at least 40 years

96% BMV land which is the best agricultural land for growing cereal crops and vegetables. If we don't have farmland for this we could face food security issues as a nation.

I think we need to look at other options and think outside the box. The CPRE had a recent campaign for Rooftop Solar. Other countries such as Italy have banned solar developments on agricultural land and France has made it mandatory to place solar panels on car parks.

I think it is time to stop looking at these projects in isolation and to focus on the bigger picture. There are already 2 solar farms accepted on either side of the village of Camblesforth, the Helios farm alongside these would completely surround the village, taking up land the size of 1200 football pitches for the next 40 years. There are also other aspects such as Drax power station, the carbon capture plant, the energy pipeline from Scotland and the Barlow ash plant all happening within the same area, all adding to the cumulative impact on one small village.

In terms of biodiversity the developers claim improvements to biodiversity by the adding of sheep and meadow flowers to the area. This doesn't mean improvements for the natural biodiversity which could be greatly impacted upon. There are red list birds, bats, badgers, moles and deer in the area to name but a few of the species that are likely to suffer as a result of this development.

If we are to look at traffic, with all the developments going on in the local area we can expect to see a huge increase in vehicles on our roads, particularly heavy goods vehicles. A lot of the roads around the site in question are small country roads not made to withstand this kind of traffic.

If considering noise, although the solar panels themselves make limited noise (there may be some as the panels rotate) the battery storage, inverters and transformers, alongside the cooling fans do produce noise and we are not just talking about the noise associated with one inverter or cooling fan. There is the cumulative effect of having 100 shipping containers of battery storage. This is not a one off sound it is a continuous high pitched buzz for the next 40 years night and day.

There has also been a lot of news coverage associated with battery fires. The implications should this happen are huge. The battery storage sits close to residential properties and the prevailing wind seen in the area would take potentially toxic emissions of gases such as hydrogen fluoride, carbon monoxide and hydrogen straight towards the village of Camblesforth and thereby there is the potential of health and safety risks to thousands of residents.

The area in question sits on flood zones 2 and 3a, medium and high risk flood areas. The compaction of the ground during the construction phase alongside the concentrated run off from the panels can add to the risk of flooding. To even think about placing such a large battery storage facility on a flood zone seems ludicrous.

The land in question sits on a source protection zone and contains a principal aquifer. The construction activities such as piling over such a large area have the potential to alter the groundwater channels. Should there be any leakage this could result in groundwater contamination as a result.

In terms of public amenity, many local residents use the roads and public rights of way as part of their leisure activities, walking, running, cycling, dog walking and horse riding. This area is chosen for this due to the tranquility, which is good for body and mind. How many will want to do the same in what will be an industrial zone. This could add to mental health issues and add to the burden already upon our national health system.

I hope that you will take these comments into consideration.

Kind regards,

Lesley Marson

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