

Although I am vehemently against any the proposals submitted by BOOM for this project, as supported by my previous responses within this process, I am aware that some part of it may proceed to approval and go ahead. If this is the case I would wish the following to be considered as a minimum requirement by the Inspector as part of any such approval. Within the submission by BOOM Power, they make a number of statements stating they wish to work with the local community and develop a good working relationship. However, I have so far seen little evidence of this through their responses with regard mitigation to minimize the overwhelming negative impact these proposals will have across the rural landscape, residential properties and communities that will be affected. If BOOM Power were serious in these commitments they would build in more significant measures to reduce these negative impacts by;

- Locations where solar panels and associated infrastructure have an immediate impact on human interaction i.e. adjacency to residential properties, Public Rights of Way and council roads, much wider buffer zones should be built in to proposals to these industrial installations to minimise their imposing negative impact. If BOOM is unwilling to make these adjustments, the Planning Inspectorate should impose these conditions as a strict requirement if the project is approved.
  - Soft landscaping such as new hedgerows and tree planting take many years to become effectively established and start to reach a meaningful size that can screen the industrial landscape for which they are planted. Particularly as the majority of planting is likely to use 45cm to 60cm transplants. If the project is approved and BOOM are serious in their commitment to local communities in alleviating the impact of their proposals, they should commit to planting all soft landscaping at the start of the project before any works associated with building the panels has commenced. This should be carried out across all sites where there will be no material impact on solar installation and will provide a number of years for trees and hedgerows to become established and fulfill the screening effect for which they intended. If planting is left until all hard infrastructure is installed, the negative visual impact will be prolonged even further and will subject local communities and visitors to the locality to this industrial nightmare. If BOOM is unwilling to make these adjustments, the Planning Inspectorate should impose these conditions as a strict requirement if the project is approved.
  - As a minimum, any new tree planting and hedgerows should achieve no less than 90% of original stocking of live trees at year 5 with full like for like replacement where this is not achieved. The Planning Inspectorate should apply this as specific condition to ensure effective establishment is achieved.
- For a project this size and scale across a whole landscape, none of the above suggestions will have a significant impact on cost or operational integrity, and should be viewed as the minimum mitigation to reduce its negative impact.