

Dear Bron,

Please find attached my objection to the above quoted planning application.

I am concerned that all the letters regarding this application are still referring to the land to the south of Church Farm, Somersham IP8 4PN as it was dropped from the original application.

Regards,

JudithEwing

Judith Ewing, Lynton House, The Green, Flowton, Suffolk, IP8 4LG

17th February 2021

Ms. Bron Curtis

Mid Suffolk Planning Department.

Via email: Bron.Curtis@babberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk

Dear Ms Curtis,

DC/20/05895 and **DC/21/00060** | Full Planning Application - Installation of renewable energy generating station, comprising ground-mounted photovoltaic solar arrays and battery-based electricity storage containers together with substation, inverter/transformer stations, site accesses, internal access tracks, security measures, access gates, other ancillary infrastructure, landscaping and biodiversity enhancements including Nature Areas. | Land To The South Of Church Farm, Somersham, IP8 4PN And Land To The East Of The Channel, Burstall, IP8 4JL In Suffolk

I accept the need and support renewable energy, solar energy is useful in the right situation however I am writing to **OBJECT** most strongly to the above planning applications on the grounds of:

1) Loss of BMV arable food producing land.

I believe this solar power installation does not meet the requirements of the NPPF as now more than ever food security is vital and needs to be sustainable. The reduction in carbon emissions made by the small amount of power generated by this scheme will be far outweighed by that produced by the need to import more grain from USA and Canada, not to mention the production of the panels themselves, probably in China, together with the transportation to UK. Subsequent replacement will produce much of it over again, probably twice. The panels have a life of much less than 40 years.

2) Loss of open vistas

During the last year, especially, being able to exercise in the open air enjoying the rolling landscape with its far reaching views, a rare sight in most of Suffolk, has lifted the spirits and supported good mental health and wellbeing of many local residents. In addition many residents of Ipswich itself have visited to allow them to walk in natural surroundings without the worry of meeting crowds of people. The applicants, Enso Energy, propose to enclose the footpaths, bridleways and PROW on each side with deer fencing making oppressive corridors which will take all pleasure from walking along them. Flowton parish covers about 500 acres and this scheme proposes to cover 242 acres, it will swamp us.

3) Noise Pollution

The Inverters and batteries, enclosed in shipping containers, will emit an unnatural constant sound which will alienate both humans and wildlife alike.

The developers noise impact assessment is flawed as they do not know, or do not want to divulge the exact equipment to be used. The motors moving the panels will also add to the noise impact.

4) Construction Traffic

The access roads for the construction phase and ongoing maintenance are mostly single track lanes with passing places. Those who to walk along these lanes, without a pavement, already find themselves needing to take remedial action to save themselves from large lorries. Being a designated cycle route the extra heavy traffic will endanger both walkers, cyclist and horse riders alike.

5) Wildlife

There is a wealth of wildlife in and around these villages and it is my belief that many of the species will be lost if the fields are filled with glass and steel, surrounded by high fences, despite the openings made in the fencing for small mammals. Deer will need to cross roads more often when their grazing is fenced off, this will produce more deer being injured or killed on the roads and could lead to potentially serious road traffic incidents.

Birds, particularly ground nesting, will lose their habitat and birds of prey will lose their hunting grounds.

6) Listed buildings

We have a number of significant listed buildings near to the land on which Enso Energy wish develop which would be adversely affected. St. Marys Church Flowton is a grade 1 listed building, the only community space Flowton has, it serves for every gathering as well as worship.

The parishioners have worked tirelessly to maintain the building and improve the facilities for residents and visitors.

Works rely on financial support from the many visitors who, like us residents, love Flowton and its church and tell us we are a very welcoming bunch of people. Every four years a flower festival and open gardens weekend is held in aid of the fabric fund and other local and national charities. Flowton is a tiny village, population less than 120, so it shows the esteem in which Flowton and its church is held when hundreds of visitors come to buy coffee, lunches, cream teas and visit the 12 gardens, or more, which are open to the public. This development will be visible from the church grounds and also to those walking around the village to visit the gardens, visitors and will no longer attend our fundraising events to the detriment of keeping a grade 1 church maintained.

7) Flooding

Our local roads are subject to flooding now but if this development proceeds the problem will be far worse as the run off from the panels with the compacted ground beneath would not be able to absorb the water. Our villages are already often isolated by the flood water, closing routes out to main roads.

8) Battery safety

The developers are withholding information regarding the batteries which will be used, however it is believed that they are most likely to be Lithium-Ion. I am aware these batteries have a propensity to spontaneously combust and are virtually impossible to extinguish when they catch fire, Suffolk Fire and Rescue have stated they will only be able to cool them down with water, there is no water hydrant or main near to where the batteries will be sited. I will live in fear of a major disaster emitting toxic clouds which will affect far reaching villages and residential areas.

In conclusion

The amount of carbon emissions produced by this proposed industrial development, rare earth mining, cobalt extraction and production methods used by the Chinese will far outweigh any benefit from this huge installation. The amount of power produced will be infinitesimal. The government have a preference for wind power which is being channelled to Bramford Substation in huge amounts.

Suffolk are already producing a lot of renewable energy but this scheme will only shift the problem to other parts of the world, more carbon emissions where they are doing nothing but increasing them already.

I have grave concerns also about how ethical the production of the panels will be and the welfare of those who will be used to manufacture them and mine the elements required.

Sheep cannot be grazed around the panels as there will be no nourishment in grass growing under the panels, the developer stated that solar radiation will be harvest by the underneath of the panel as it reflects off the ground. No solar reaching the grass no nutrient to provide sheep grazing.

Enso Energy are speculators who have presented shoddy research much of it 'cut and paste' from other applications.

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