

From: [Louise Jessup](#)
To: [Stonestreet Green Solar Project](#)
Subject: Inspectorate closure
Date: 19 May 2025 22:51:21

Dear Spencer

As the inquiry comes to a close, I have diligently been reading the various documents as they come up on the website and I just felt I wanted to take an opportunity to comment this last time.

As I read the most recent documents, I think the think that has struck me most has been done of the responses and comments that have been written by the villagers in particular about the battery installation. Yes there has been the usual anger and reasons as to why the project itself is wrong but I got upset when I realised how many are so fearful about the batteries and the fire risk that is associated with them. I sense real distress among so many, about the closeness to the dwellings of some and the general proximity to the village, and the worries so many have that if there was a fire, the issue of toxic fumes, run off of the water used to put them out and after the recent major fire completely destroying Handen Farm due to the lack of available water, and the very real concerns about putting out a battery fire which so often just have to be contained and then allowed to burn out over days, it feels so sad and so wrong.

Part of me does feel cross and very upset over the complete lack of engagement in terms of reassurance and empathy towards the villagers from both the developers and actually now Kent Fire and Rescue themselves. The very fact that 2 days was given over to discuss the batteries and they didn't turn up and it was only after a request from the inspector that they even bothered to do a letter about their thoughts simply doesn't reassure any of us about the risks of this facility.

I also reflect that with the housing targets coming from the government and the church commissioners have offered their land to Ashford Borough Council which stretches around Mersham right through to Bank Road and the solar farm area, this facility has the potential to land up in the middle of a housing estate. I wonder if it would be allowed of someone said, let's put a solar array of this size in the middle of the Chilmington Green development? Maybe it wouldn't get through as, where is there a site such as this in a housing estate anywhere??

Finally, last Thursday at about 6pm in the evening, I drove home from the beautiful Lees Court Estate near Shottenden where I have been enjoying the enormous privilege of excavating a bronze age round barrow. As I came down station road towards the village, I came round the bend just past the flood zone lake just before

the mill. I looked across the valley towards Bank Farm which I could see on the hill about a mile away. The landscape and network of fields in front of me was bathed in the warm evening sunshine and I reflected that if this goes ahead, never again would I witness that view again in my lifetime. I am now [REDACTED] and have seen that view for 45 years during my time in the village. If the solar farm has a potential life of 40 years the memory of that view will go for ever and many of our young people will never remember it at all and will only know it covered in the black solar panels, standing like dark sentinels in those fields stretching ahead of me in the fading sunlight.

We await the inspector's decision at some point in the not too distant future and the final one from the Secretary of State

Yours Sincerely

Louise Jessup

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