

OBJECTION

WRITTEN REPRESENTATION East Park Energy Solar Farm — Application Reference: EN010141

Shaun Woodward, local resident, living in [REDACTED], Keysoe in one of the named homes close to the site in the application.

Dear Mr Sword

Sir, I write to expand on points raise in my original comprehensive submission [REDACTED] which covered a wide range of issues in some detail as to why I object to this application. These additions are to enhance the points raised or to supplement with new information.

1/. Grid Balancing – BESS arbitrage

I am increasingly concerned that the primary driver for the 100MW BESS installation at EPE is the financial gains to be made by employing a two-way connection from the grid. This allows operators to buy energy when cheap and sell back to the grid to make a substantial profit. This two-way connection does little to help green energy as the source could be any mix of energy including gas, particularly in winter when solar renewables perform abysmally. It appears this model is becoming a major component of solar NSIP's financial modelling, and is not a worthwhile use of BMV land. I would be grateful if you would consider this aspect carefully. Others have written in greater detail on the matter. I refer to [REDACTED] work on this subject which you will now be familiar with.

2/. Bond for reversal/removal of site

I believe it is imperative that the DCO contains a watertight bond funded by the developer but not controlled by them or any other future owner of the site. It should contain sufficient funds and/or insurance to return the site back to its original state without any financial aid from government or funds from external interested parties eg housing developers. This should be a bond which is total remote and unaffected by the financial position of any future owners including insolvency. To fail to place such a strong realistically funded bond would potentially leave the residents and community unacceptably open to a failed unwanted installation, a white elephant eyesore with no means to remove it.

3/. Management of grass on the site by sheep

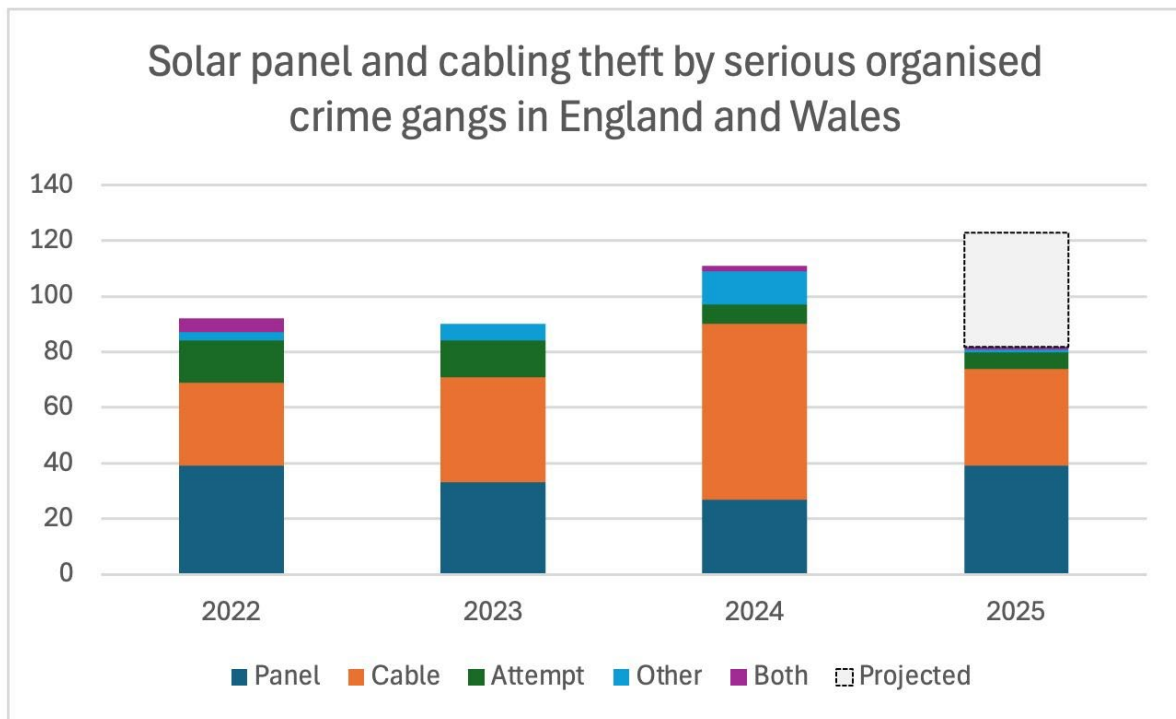
My research shows that Bedfordshire has few sheep, about 20,000 spread over about 200 owners. Not surprising as the high proportion of BMV land here is best suited to arable crops. I note the applicant's intention to use sheep for grass management, providing a table of the number of sheep per hectare required to maintain a healthy grass level. *EN010141 000081-7.7 Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan - 6.5.36*

The figures in the table most relevant to Bedfordshire suggest 5.5 to 8 sheep per hectare would be needed for the task over 24 to 36 grazing weeks. To achieve this on the EPE site

would therefore require 4224 to 6144 sheep, equivalent to almost one third of all sheep currently farmed in Bedfordshire requiring a distinct shift by landowners to sheep farming from arable with all that entails. I suggest this will never be enacted, and is included purely to enhance the applicant's 'green' credentials. I suggest using sheep extensively in lieu of mowing machinery should be made mandatory and watertight for the life of the site in the DOC if the claim is serious. For your information I calculate a single 3m wide mower will be need to travel 423Km to make a single cut between the solar rows (not including underneath them). If that's is realistically twice per year, it adds a significant addition to emission calculations over 40 years particularly when added to the 'in/out' movements required in addition to mow under the arrays and the final hand strimming around the estimated 250,000+ metal piling supports.

4/. OPAL – Rising organised crime - theft of cables

Further to my original concerns raised about inadequate and unrealistic security plans for the EPE site, the following OPAL data has become available.



'Attempts': includes unsuccessful thefts and any related damage, and surveillance categorised as offender hostile reconnaissance or suspicious vehicles

Source: Opal – Serious Organised Acquisitive Crime national intelligence unit/Metal & Infrastructure Crime. 2025 shows data up to the end of August, with crimes/incidents for remainder of year projected.

This reinforces the rising rate of organised solar crime, which the EPE scheme could attract to our community. It reinforces the points I made about the applicants ill-considered plans for security at the operational stage, using minimal inward facing CCTV, and floodlighting. I suggest this was in order to claim less disturbance to local people, wildlife and to minimise 'tracking' local people's movement. Without considerable security, the expansive nature of the site covering roads, footpaths and bridleways will render all rights of way as obvious

entry point and target for thieves particularly at night, the mammal gates being easy points to wriggle through if large enough for a deer. The applicant's plans for lighting only the entry gate points to the site at the operational stage will not be enough. I believe to deter thieves will require a considerable number of floodlights across the site supported by intensive CCTV which will need to fully monitor footpaths, road verges and other rights of way. To be effective over 60 km of fence line, will require flood lights every 25 metres? which equates to over 2600 floodlights. High gantry mounted floodlights mounted centrally within solar compounds may allow a lesser number of more powerful lamps to be used but the structures would be very visible and the lighting would be intrusive. All options would pose an eyesore and further industrialise the site. Sufficient CCTV cameras to provide proper security proffer a similar challenge, even if IR rated.

My point is that effective floodlighting, which could be added after the DOC is issued will increase light pollution, and any CCTV guarding perimeters will impact heavily on resident's privacy, monitor of walkers, riders and cyclists whilst also potentially monitoring traffic movements of local people which is absolutely unacceptable. The applicant will argue this increased security is not required, but I suggest it will be applied for as retrospective planning after the first theft incident, unless the DOC is very specific that it cannot be added and a sensible unobtrusive security plan can be presented now. Increased security measures also add to the emissions and carbon from manufacture and installation, plus energy costs to run such installations which should all be meticulously included in any GHG/Carbon calculations supporting the claims for 'green' credentials.

5/. Unsuitability of the main entry and exit route between the A1 and site entrance along the B645.

This week, another accident occurred on the B645, on the stretch of road opposite where the new EPE site entrance is proposed. This time involving a motorcyclist.

The B645 road with its winding and blind 'S' bends which include a number of private house and farm entrances within the curves is totally unsuitable for the main traffic entrance route for such a large construction project.

I am also very concerned with the applicant claims that all HGV traffic leaving the site will exit north on the A1, even those wishing to travel south. If implemented this presents a problem because the vehicles will either have to turn onto the Great North Rd via the very tight bend through Little Paxton, to join the A1 south on the (locally notorious) dangerous unsighted junction at the Little Paxton southbound exit. The junction has a tiny runway, is blind to traffic due to tree cover, and traffic on this stretch is travelling at 70mph, only seeing traffic from the junction very late. Please drive this section of road. (Please see map below).

Alternatively, HGV drivers will be required to travel further north; miles to the roundabout at Buckden, a very major detour for them if driving south. The Buckden roundabout is also a bottleneck junction at many times of day. I respectfully suggest HGV drivers will simply ignore instructions and access the southbound carriageway south, via the mini-roundabouts at the Eaton Oak pub, in Crosshall (and near to Crosshall Infant School). Likewise, A1

southbound site traffic will use the same junction to exit rather than drive down to the Black Cat roundabout to turn in order to access the Eaton ford A1 junction from the northbound carriageway.

