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To: [Tilbridge Solar Project](#)
Subject: Interested party statement for deadline 6 submission
Date: 01 April 2025 20:25:04

Interested party no 20049284

My husband and I moved to this house almost 2 years ago giving up our home county of Kent with all our friends and family to move for a better life. Kent was once green and lovely and although parts of it still are the landscape has become filled with houses and infrastructure that I have seen greatly increase and take over the countryside to where towns and villages now join each other with no green in between and this has happened within my lifetime. Because of this the house prices in Kent in the countryside are out of most peoples reach forcing most of us to have to live in the large towns where houses are slightly more affordable. Having grown up in the 80s in the Kent countryside I was desperate to return to a more rural way of living as after 16 years living in a big town my mental health was suffering significantly as was my husbands who is [REDACTED] and was increasingly struggling with the stress of the weight of traffic and constant traffic jams and pollution in our town. During lockdown we came to the realisation that we couldn't live this way anymore particularly as the levels of pollution in our town were some of the worst in the county, so decided to leave our home county in search of something better where we could afford to live in a rural landscape and reap all the benefits that nature has to offer. When we found our house in 2023 we couldn't believe that we could afford something situated somewhere so beautiful, standing in the garden looking out at our far reaching views after having no view for 16 years was simply amazing. Both of us have felt the effects of living this way greatly improve our mental health and we feel so lucky to have made the move and live where we now live. If this industrial solar installation is allowed to proceed then all of that will be taken away. With Cottam approved to the front of us and then Tilbridge to the back and side of us we will feel imprisoned once again within our home, this time instead of rows and rows of houses it will be rows and rows of glass from almost all our windows, gone will be the green we love and that instantly brings calm to us every day.

The road outside our house is Kexby Road and it is a tiny road not suitable for large traffic as people often use our driveway to pull aside to let oncoming traffic pass as there are very few passing places. The road slightly further down from us is already not in a very good state with the little amount of traffic there is that passes on it now let alone what it will be like with hgv's and heavy traffic due to construction works. Our concern is also for the noise, at the moment it is so peaceful here which was another reason for our move as we constantly heard police, ambulances and road noise in our old home, here is it just the sound of nature and the odd plane and it is so wonderful for our mental health to finally have peace and quiet particularly for my [REDACTED] husband. We love living where we live surrounded by nature and we are concerned for the crested newts, bats and owls we have seen in our area along with many other species of wildlife, we regularly get deer in the back

field. We strongly believe that the amount of land being taken in our area is way out of proportion and should Tilbridge go forward would be grossly unfair for our small area to have to take so many large scale industrial solar installations, we will not be able to drive anywhere without encountering them and this will lead to damaging mental health issues for our area. We also have great concerns about the safety of the batteries, only yesterday another huge fire has broken out at a BESS site in Gloucestershire, these batteries can't be put out they have to be left to burn, another worry and mental health issue for all of us that it will affect.

Finally I should like to comment on the fact that Tilbridge have no concrete plan on how to dispose of these panels once their lifespan is done, we questioned a representative of Tilbridge and was told that they don't know what they will do with them, my husband who works within the electrical industry informs me that they will likely be sent to landfill in some other country to be disposed of, this is by no means an environmentally friendly product and at this scale the waste will be astronomical, where will it all go?

Shelley Rapley

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