

PHILIP HEARD IP [REDACTED]: DEADLINE 2 SUMMARY

Climate:

Fosse Green GHG emissions from the manufacture of solar PV Panels are stated to be 110,110 tCO₂e. If the emissions calculated for the proposed Springwell solar development, which are based on more recent guidance, were applied, the proposed development GHG figure would be 382,836 tCO₂e.

The Applicant says a 60-year operational life does not result in a lower carbon intensity figure. The carbon intensity for a 60 year life is 37 gCO₂e/kWh; for a 40 year development, it would be approximately 55 gCO₂e/kWh.

Solar PV Panel Replacement:

The Springwell ExA proposed that the number of solar PV panels replaced over the lifetime of the authorised development should not exceed 5%. A similar wording in the DCO limiting total unplanned replacements would be appropriate.

Gross Inefficiency:

If solar achieves the full 2030 47GW target it would take some 2% of all cropland out of production and would contribute less than 13% of the UK's total annual electricity supply.

Permanent Sealing of Agricultural Land:

Other solar NSIPs, including Mallard Pass promoted by the same applicant, have adopted a cautionary approach by assuming areas of access tracks, BESS and substations to be permanently sealed over. This worst case assumption should be followed by the Applicant.

Funding Statement:

The Applicant has acknowledged that that decommissioning costs are not included in the capital cost estimate of the proposed development; the Funding Statement needs to be corrected. The Applicant has committed to **“setting aside money for decommissioning”**; where is this detailed?

Food Security:

The UK Government recently published a national security assessment. Given the stark warnings in the paper, it would be reasonable to assume that the UK Government will impose greater restrictions on the use of arable land for anything other than farming purposes. This puts the Applicant's failure to find reasonable alternatives into even greater context.

BESS:

Until there is a Government response to the NFCC BESS Position Statement and given the lack of any need due to BESS overcapacity, consideration should be given to put any BESS approval on hold.

Tourism/Recreation:

The Applicant's assessment on the impact of the proposed development on tourism/recreation is 'not significant'. Both NKDC and LCC LIRs assess the impact on

landscape and visual, PRowS and tourism as negative; the professional judgement of those with experience of working and living in the local area for many years should carry greater weight.

House Prices:

More recent research to that produced by the Applicant, concludes that solar developments lead to a decrease in house prices about 2.6% within 1km of the proposed development.

Ground Contamination:

The Applicant appears to be proposing no measures to prevent chemicals and heavy metals from solar panels leaching contaminants. Porth Wen solar farm on Anglesey suffered severe damage “to hundreds of panels” as a result of Storm Darragh. No amount of maintenance checks can prevent such unforeseen damage which could lead to serious implications for the Protected Drinking Water Area.

Energy Security:

The Applicant states “*the Proposed Development directly relates to energy security ...*” How can this be the case when the technology, manufacture and supply is all sourced from China? Moreover, ‘kill switches’ have been found in Chinese supplied energy products to the US.