

**PINS SUBMISSION BY CHRISTINE HAMILTON
TUESDAY 30th JUNE 2026**

“Solar has its rightful place in modern society. But Lime Down is not that place.

In particular, the siting of the BESS - nearly 300 batteries each the size of a shipping container just yards behind our house. As well as about 58K solar panels in an arc around us, we will be subjected to the noise of the BESS 24/7 and see it from upstairs windows and the top of the garden.

If that wasn't enough, we will be under constant threat of a devastating and potentially lethal thermal runaway.

Yes, they are rare but they do happen and everyone in our house at the time, children and babies, would be sitting ducks, overwhelmed by toxic gas and smoke before anyone else and it would quickly extend to Hullavington where, just a field away, is the primary school of nearly 150 pupils.

Even closer is the London/South Wales railway in a deep cutting. The area floods regularly and, with gigantic panels nearby, the volume and rate of runoff would greatly increase flood risk.

The Applicant has failed, deliberately or otherwise, to give any estimates of potential pollution on the railway, totally ignoring the likelihood of toxic gas emissions which would gravely threaten rail passengers. Depending on wind conditions, all surrounding villages and Malmesbury itself could be affected. There would be total shutdown.

It is hard to imagine a less suitable site for the BESS, an unprecedented 20 kilometres from the Grid connection.

I was pleased to see your pertinent questions of Wilts & Dorset Fire but can see no response from them to indicate they would be up to the task. But we learn from history. This BESS is roughly the size of Moss Landing which had a thermal runaway in Jan '25.

That needed about 2.2 million litres of water in a closed-loop system, all needing disposal as hazardous waste.

IGP proposes provision of less than half a million litres, not in a closed-loop system and with no indication of where it would be stored. That's less than a quarter needed at Moss Landing. Even so, this vast volume of hazardous

water would run off into regularly flooded land and probably through our house as well.

I would not wish the potential horror of the BESS on anyone but it could be anywhere and does not have to be adjacent to the railway and a Grade I Listed building, the origins of which were in Domesday.

The real attraction of the BESS is not to store electricity from Lime Down but to import it from the grid when demand is low and export it at peak times when the price is high. It is an obvious money-grabbing device. If the DCO is granted, Macquarie will just sell off the windfall asset and hop back to Australia before any of the grotesque results descend on us disposable locals.

This part of the glorious higgeldy-piggeldy jigsaw that is rural England will be lost forever to the avarice of distant overseas investors and nine greedy, selfish landowners who care not for their neighbours and erstwhile friends.

They might not care but we do - this is OUR community and OUR lives. Lime Down has no merit whatsoever in planning terms and must not be allowed to happen.”

Read what's it's like to live next to an NSIP solar scheme...

Here is a copy of a description of the implementation of the first U.K. NSIP in Cleve hill, Kent, myself and my BEPS steering committee member [REDACTED] are going to see the development for ourselves tomorrow, along with county councillor [REDACTED] we will be meeting Local Kent councillors and residents, what questions would you ask them?

"It is a nightmare": the grim reality of living next to a mega solar building site

27 October 2025 Dust, mud, noise and disruption, HGV convoys, broken promises and cracks in the walls of local houses. This is the reality at the Cleve Hill solar plant in Kent. But after two years of what was described by a local as a "nightmare" build programme at the UK's first 'NSIP'[link] solar facility to be constructed, locals say that there is still no sign of the landscape planting the developer was required to fund and deliver as part of its Development Consent Order. None of the agreed community 'benefits' have been delivered, and the promised biodiversity 'improvements' haven't materialised either. In the PR for the scheme, the original developer promoted Cleve Hill's ability to provide clean power to local homes. The output is instead sold under Power Purchase Agreements for Tesco and Shell.

Residents living close to the building site had to deal with problem after problem, from flooding, through illegally closed footpaths, to "soul destroying" noise when the builders switched to a different pile-driving technique for the extensive foundations to support racking for the 600,000 solar panels.

There was little respite with very long site working hours: 7am to 7pm every weekday and 7am to 2pm on Saturdays.

[REDACTED] a resident in the nearby village of Graveney, says: "The constant thud, thud of piling from early in the morning and into the evening, drove us all mad. It was so intrusive that even when it stopped we felt we could hear it still, it had become so much of our world. It's a continuous low level noise that gets to you and can give you headache after headache. It's a constant reminder of what is being destroyed."

Pile-driving wasn't the only noise: there was continuous drilling, equipment reverse alerts, and metallic noises from fitting the panels. On top of this, the noise and disruption that comes with the territory when hundreds of construction workers "take over" the area for two long years. Site workers came from all over Europe.

The hundreds of thousands of panels are almost 4 metres high. Cleve Hill is configured in an

he road through the village is a rural road and the continuous HGV movements made it look as if a bomb had hit it. The verges were decimated, loads of mud, hollows, potholes. We had regular roadworks because of the gas and water leaks. These were rare before the development started but they became a regular occurrence – the developer said it had nothing to do with them, but we were getting regular convoys of up to six HGVs on a small rural road. We had steady streams of concrete mixer lorries.”

According to local drivers found themselves pushed into the verge and hedges, damaging their cars, because they were faced with a convoy of HGVs after the escort vehicle repeatedly gave the warning too late.

The developer ended up having to build a large marshalling area to streamline the flow of HGVs and prevent so many disruptive and dangerous convoys.

The long construction project did not even bring local job opportunities – a Greek construction company won the £114 million contract. Cleve Hill is subsidised by a government-backed Contract for Difference.

Locals, says still feel powerless: “Many people feel that everything has been taken from them: nature, wildlife, birds – all the owls, geese, marsh harriers, kites which so abounded appear to have largely disappeared – recreational space, productive land, culture, heritage, the whole of the marshes and its unique landscape, peace and quiet.”

The solar arrays at Cleve Hill started operating this summer. But construction work is still going on, now to install the compound to house the 150MW battery energy storage system – 96 container-sized units filled with thousands of lithium-ion cells. Battery banks like this are still not regulated in the UK.

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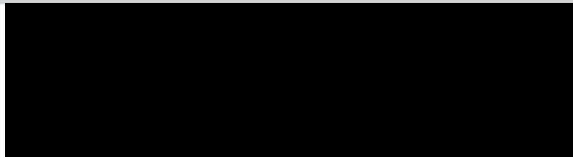
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I really hope that none of these plants are found on the land that they are putting solar farms on,. It would be a terrible shame if there were any of these planted there, also I've heard of ppl planting Bamboo in the US where Data Centres are being put up as they then CANT use the land, isnt it awful how people try to sabotage these wonderful plans as they are there for energy security and to keep us safe.....

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The hundreds of thousands of panels are almost 4 metres high. Cleve Hill is configured in an east-west design, so the racked panels create a dark, almost continuous apex roof pattern across the 900-acre site.

The construction traffic was a major issue for local residents. ████████ talks about "thundering of lorries going past" and houses literally "shaking". Cracks have appeared in buildings on the HGV route.

The construction traffic was so heavy at this rural location that the developer had to use a so called 'Golden hours' system. One hour in the morning, and one hour in the afternoon so that children could start and finish schools safely and



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start and finish schools safely and local people could use their narrow country roads free of the HGV traffic needed to build the UK's first mega solar power plant.

Says [REDACTED] "The road through the village is a rural road and the continuous HGV movements made it look as if a bomb had hit it. The verges were decimated, loads of mud, hollows, potholes. We had regular roadworks because of the gas and water leaks. These were rare before the development started but they became a regular occurrence – the developer said it had nothing to do with them, but we were getting regular convoys of up to six HGVs on a small rural road. We had steady streams of concrete mixer lorries."



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Difference.

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Cleve Hill energy plant's mitigation efforts failing, solar panels spoil marsh land view | Newchurch, Kent

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Latest visit to Cleve Hill energy plant where we joined colleagues from the local campaign group at Graveney and visitors from **Block East Pye Solar - South Norfolk** as well as one of the Norfolk County Councillors.

The mitigation and biodiversity tree planting isn't going too well. Most of the trees are dead. And why holly was included in the first planting phase is beyond me. There's not much sign of wildlife using their wildlife corridor cat flaps. There's still no sheep grazing despite it being a condition of the DCO. And the wild flower meadows are mainly thistles at the moment. But we did get to climb the church tower which was cool. Shame the view was spoiled by 100s of acres of these weird dystopian glass things splattered over what used to be beautiful marsh land.



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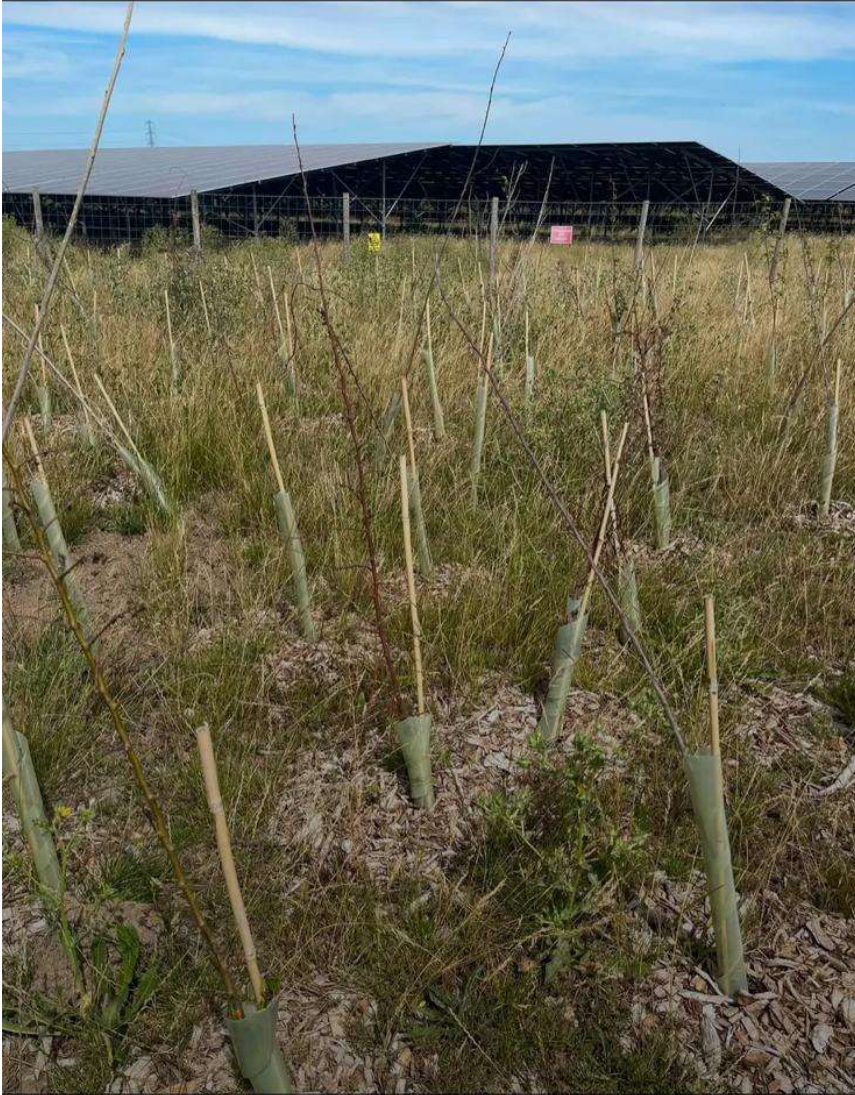
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