

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 October 2024 11:01
To: High Grove Solar
Cc: [REDACTED]@sporle-pc.gov.uk
Subject: RE: EN0110010 - High Grove Solar - EIA Scoping Notification and Consultation

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Categories: EST

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]

Good afternoon,

Please see below comments from Sporle Parish Council and the Sporle Neighbourhood Development Plan Group.

There is concern over the solar panel development surrounding Sporle, mainly the Central panel areas designated either side of the village and their closeness to the village, the visual impact on local people, the impact of increased traffic during construction and the loss of good agricultural land. The separate points of concern which the Council would like to be addressed are set out below.

1. The Council want to minimise the impact of the area surrounding Sporle, specifically areas of local value, there is an area at the north end of the village that crosses The Street between the church and the cross roads. The Council would not approve if the development affect the land called "the meadow" this area has some historical value and interest to the village.
2. The Council would like to ensure that the small 132kV substation and battery sites that serve the Central panel areas are kept away from the village. Although the scoping allows for assessing the possible noise and the unsightliness of an 8m high installation with 15m high communications tower, the Council wants to ensure this is carried out and part of the consultation with local residents.
3. There is concern over the battery sites and the risk of fire, it appears that the applicant wants to scope it out and cover the issue of fire in a management plan to be submitted with the DCO application. The view is that this is potentially dangerous and should be scoped in. There is mounting evidence that Lithium-ion battery fires are impossible to put out and are left by the fire services to burn out on their own, causing a potential serious pollution hazard which with prevailing winds could impact the village. This should be addressed.
4. There is further concern that this development is taking a large amount of land out of food production – good farming land. What comes across in the report is that this will be assessed in the Environmental Impact Assessment, however, this will all depend on the agricultural land classification of the land in question. The key legislation/policy documents – National Planning Statements for Energy says that they must use areas of poorer land over better quality. The Council want emphasis to therefore be put onto this, also for Natural England to be consulted if applicable.
5. The Council would like the effect of the operational phase of the project (40 years) on how soil resources are going to be preserved and/or enhanced over the life of the project to be considered, in the chance this land may be used for arable production again in the future.

6. As part of the EIA the applicant will have to undertake a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment. The report goes into quite a lot of detail about this in terms of ways of assessing valuable landscape character and even lists those areas it deems will see the development or have the view impaired/changed.

It lists:

Priory close – the houses that back onto the field

Plus the footpaths including the Pedders Way

Palgrave Road

Little Dunham

North of Sporle

Southacre Road

Sporle Road

However, they list some figures in the report of work they have already done showing Zones of Theoretical Visibility (figures 14). These were not included on the documents available to be downloaded from the Planning Inspectorate, can these be made available?

The report does say that identification of likely significant effects on landscape and visual receptors will rely on detailed analysis and expert judgement and consultation with stake holders. As the Sporle Neighbourhood planning group are already looking at significant views as part of the plan, can these be shared with the developer please to be specifically considered?

7. Traffic during the construction phase is a concern of local residents, the applicant has already had meetings with Norfolk Highways and it states that the amount of traffic during the construction phase will not significantly increase on the major roads. Can the Council be made aware of any potential traffic through Sporle?
8. There is one solar panel development already approved in Little Dunham, and another proposed being 'Droves Solar Farm'. The impact of all of these developments, within a similar time frame, and a relatively small area of land, is concerning for local residents for all of the above reasons, but on an even larger scale than this application only.

Kind regards

Lolly Dawson

Temporary Parish Clerk

Sporle with Palgrave Parish Council

From: High Grove Solar <highgrovesolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>

Sent: 10 September 2024 10:19

Subject: EN0110010 - High Grove Solar - EIA Scoping Notification and Consultation

Dear Sir/Madam

Please see attached correspondence on the proposed High Grove Solar Farm.

The Applicant for the Proposed Development intends to make an application for Development Consent under the Planning Act 2008. The Applicant has sought a Scoping Opinion from the Planning Inspectorate, on behalf of the Secretary of State, as to the scope and level of detail of the information to be provided within the Environmental Statement that will accompany its future application.