

Please Note:

Although I am dealing with Site 8 in particular, much of the content is also applicable to the other remaining Sites.

As It is At Present

It is 830 am on a Wednesday morning in early autumn as I stoop and look out of the open wrought iron framed leaded lighted first floor window of our 16th century farmhouse. All is quiet because this is the middle of the country apart from the odd barking dog in the distance and chatter of the sparrows in the roadside hedge.

Still looking in this northerly direction, on the other side of the roadway, Wash Lane, a wheat field awaiting to be sown, slopes gently down to a tranquil pastoral valley landscape of small fields contained by thick tree dotted hedgerows. Numerous ancient oaks punctuate the fields and a stream, (Shotesham Beck) and Market Lane mark the Valley bottom before the land rises again more steeply to Brook Road and Baxter's Lane in the distance.

My view is framed on either side by dense deciduous woodland one a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). This landscape in its entirety, is of considerable worth to wildlife and the people who live, walk, ride and work in it. It is mostly wheat producing land with areas of pasture closer to the stream.

This area together with Shotesham Common was a defining influence in the decision to grant Shotesham village the status of becoming a Conservation Area under the Civic Amenities Act of 1967.

Its Future

Unfortunately I have just described the location and present quality of the landscape that is SITE 8. There are however other Sites which will have many similar characteristics.

Its importance

This pocket of landscape is a rare and beautiful example of Norfolk's agricultural heritage and worth Conserving. It is so untypical of some of the large wide open fields with often skimpy flailed to death hedgerows dotted with ageing stagheaded oaks that we so often see.

So why is Britain with its strong planning laws even thinking of considering turning this intimate and valuable English country setting into a hideous factory site. My immediate reaction, justifiably so is what's happened to the Town and Country Planning Act of 1947 which has conserved our heritage so admired and enjoyed by foreign visitors. Especially since the proposal will have the most undesirable and intrusive effect upon all who unfortunately come into contact with it.

For Instance

- **Noise** from each solar panel aligning motor up to 60 dBs.

Noise from Transformers and Inverters which can produce a similar decibel reading.

- **Solar glare** from the south facing panels.
- **Intrusive night-time security lighting.** Intrusive all round high security fencing with cameras.
- **A barren landscape** beneath the panels as illustrated by the solar farm at Trowse this side of Norwich.

Could anyone have thought up a more alien proposal for a site such as this? And for what ?

- Definitely not for the local inhabitants since the benefits although somewhat meagre, on a good day can only achieve eleven percent efficiency, are to be shipped elsewhere. But at what cost?
- Total loss of valuable food producing land.
- Disturbance and damage of acres of adjacent farmland with miles of cable laying.

Let alone the chemical pollution damage to the actual panel sites from material degeneration or any chemical leakage from within the panels themselves.

- Destruction by juggernaut deliveries of the ancient narrow frequently winding single track wide verged fragile lanes which mostly consist of a simple shingle tar spray wearing course on a shallow rubble base.

The area alone will be lost forever since in future it will be classified in planning terms as a 'Brownfield Site.'

Even East Pye Solar appreciate the landscape Quality of Site 8.

Below are East Pye Solar's analysis of the various sites:-

EPS describes Site 8 as
"Predominantly Flat" (.2. 10. 5)
which is untrue, it's a valley.

EPS's Classification of Site 8:-

Appendix 7.7 Visual Assessment Tables.

"High percentage of Major Significance of Adverse/Direct Effect on this Site."

Appendix 7.3 Landscape Assessment Tables.

"Major Significance of Direct and Indirect Adverse Effect on this Site."

Appendix 7.2 Table 7.5

Landscape Assessment Character and Features of Sites.

Site 8 is the ONLY Site Classified as "High Sensitivity."

Despite all these findings WHY are they still going ahead with Site 8 if they wish to appear a sympathetic provider of solar panel sites in Britain not only to the Town and Country Planners but to all in sundry.

Impossible to hide.

It is obvious that a valley site can never be hidden so easily as a flat site can by hedges.

Why Solar Panels

The whole argument for solar panels is flawed, apart from their numerous other drawbacks, solar panels don't suit the national grid, once the sun comes out they all start producing and can spike the grid whereas the turbine production of electricity can always be managed.

Solar panels appear to have duped the Minister of Energy and the Government as a whole who appear to believe in Net-zero! A complete fallacy since our dirty industrial production is simply being transfer to the other side of our planet.

Solar panels are no better than the fable of the 'King's New Clothes'.

WHO in this fast changing hi-tech day and age would try and convince people that a vinyl record was the way forward for ease of listening.

Food More Important than Panels

So WHY is the Town and Country Planning Act being flouted so that an appallingly inefficient white elephant is allowed to wantonly run riot over thousands of acres of our valuable food producing agricultural land whilst our population increases by the day and the Government meanwhile warns of food shortages.

This applies to all other sites encompassing approximately 2700 acres of important wheat growing land.

The Loss

A rich area of biodiversity including the wide Roadside Nature Reserves of Market Lane with their rare species of clover including the larger open area of Lathgreen itself, NEiThER of which should have been included in anybody's site, will have been lost for ever.

Personally

Sadly in the future the 8.30 am view from the farmhouse window and from the other ancient cluster of buildings will never be the same and the windows will never be opened for fear of inviting noise and intrusion into our homes. Not withstanding the solar glare during the day and the security lighting at night

Howard Bolton

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