

Name & Address
supplied

6th April 2021.

Dear Andrew

Re: Proposed Solar Farm at Scotton

I understand Lord (Name Supplied) has spoken to you regarding the proposed solar farm at Scotton.

Initially, may I say that I am not opposed to green energy and would have no objection to one or two fields of solar panels; however the proposal for a site comprising 279 acres to generate 49.9MW, which will be one of the largest solar farms in the country, in a village location with such important historical assets, is totally inappropriate.

The sheer scale of the proposal is difficult to comprehend and will, I believe, ruin the natural and incredibly beautiful countryside around the village, which is enjoyed by so many local people who live in the village to enjoy walking. This has been particularly important during the pandemic to maintain a balance to health and indeed mental health which has been affected by so many people during these difficult times.

Whilst the initial approach to Harrogate Borough Council was to ascertain whether an Environmental Impact Assessment was required and HBC confirmed such in November 2020, I believe from activity on the site, that the EIA is being completed and as a consequence a planning application will be forthcoming.

Obviously, this proposal has caused concern within the village and a group of us have delivered the attached leaflet to homes across Scotton, Lingerfield, Farnham and Brearton during the last three weeks. To date approx. 145 individuals have registered their opposition to the proposal and more are expected.

I believe the reasons for opposing can be summarised as follows:

- The location of the proposed solar farm is too close to the village
- The location is adjacent to significant historical assets – 30m from Scotton Old Hall, 10m from the barn at Scotton Old Hall, 5m from the Quaker Burial Ground and actually above the site of evidence of a medieval village.
- Potential loss of grade 2, 3a and 3b agricultural land.
- Potential for the two existing public footpaths between Scotton and Brearton to pass through the array of solar panels at 3m in height.
- Inadequate road infrastructure to accommodate the potential of 1550 single journey 50 foot “artic” lorries, 330 single journey 33 foot rigid HGV’s plus the large number of smaller vehicles for delivery/collection of goods/waste and transportation of construction workers and sub-contractors during the development of the farm which, based on other sites, will take 3 to 4 months. The minor roads within Scotton, Farnham and Lingerfield are totally inadequate for 50 foot artics, HGV’s and additional vans and whilst the initial screening application refers to High Moor Lane at the north of the site connecting directly to the A61

making it accessible to strategic road networks, this road is very narrow and unsuitable for large vehicles.

- Potential breach of Policy CC3 of the Local Plan which states that renewable and low carbon energy projects will be supported when they would not adversely impact on the landscape, natural environment and heritage features. My comments above re Scotton Old Hall and the Quaker Burial Site refer and,

On this latter note, Harrogate Borough Council has already commented that the proposed solar development will cover a large land area and has potential to have significant landscape visual impact. Many solar farms are built on flat land to facilitate adequate screening of the site or on land away from villages/housing, however the proposed site dips from three sides and is rather undulating making screening virtually impossible.

The purpose of this letter is to ask for your support, as our local MP and also someone who has been extremely supportive of the village in the past, to oppose the proposed solar farm in Scotton and to ask for your guidance and advice on what we can do to prevent the proposal from being approved.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards

Richard Tallis