

Ian Stumpf

7 March 2023

The Planning Inspectorate,
Major Casework Team,
Room 3J Kite Wing,
Temple Quay House,
2 The Square, Bristol,
BS1 6PN

Dear Sir/ Madam,

PINS reference S62A/2022/0011

Objection to the Proposal for the Construction and Operation of a Solar “Farm” (Uttlesford DC ref : UTT/22/2624/PINS)

We write to object to the enormous solar facility proposed by Low Carbon Solar Park 6 Limited (a company with a net worth of £1).

As you will be aware, the same scheme in principle (only now marginally smaller in size¹ so as to make no veritable difference) was recently rejected by the Uttlesford Planning Authority in January 2022². For the Applicant to make what is essentially the same application again, expecting a different answer, does appear to make a mockery of the planning system. For that reason alone, this resubmission should also be rejected.

Notwithstanding the above, the principal reason for our objection is that there are more appropriate places for this scheme.

It is also incontrovertible that this scheme will cause industrialisation of the countryside.

Additionally, our reasons for objection include:

- Impact on nearby listed buildings and sites of historical interest.
- Impact on the habitat of wildlife.
- The sacrifice of BMV land – which is in itself counterintuitive to reducing the impact of climate change.

Government policy makes it clear that the use of arable grade land for this purpose should be avoided and brownfield sites are to be preferred.

The applicant’s Alternative Sites Assessment is a “greenwash”, premised on the incorrect basis that a solar farm must be constructed in this part of the Uttlesford District and that it has to be close to an existing grid. Neither of these alleged prerequisites are supported by facts in the Applicant’s submission. There must be plenty of alternative sites in the UK (and which align with the recommendations of the NPPF) that Low Carbon could have investigated if it takes a wider

¹ Previously 79.28 Hectares (“Ha”), now 76.39 Ha.

² Uttlesford District Council application number (UTT/21/3356/FUL).

perspective rather than focusing on sites that saves it the cost of a more expensive connection (and the profits of a single company should not be given priority over the retention of English countryside).

Additionally, the quoting of comments from Kwasi Kwarteng's Twitter account and an article from the Daily Express (as the Applicant does in its Planning Statement³) are not (it is submitted) solid grounds on which to found the argument for such a scheme as these have no official authority.

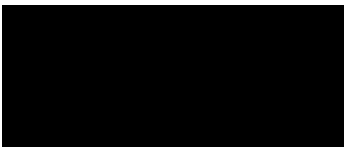
Whilst it is not denied that more sustainable energy sources are required, this should not come at the cost of ruining unspoilt countryside when this could be avoided (which it can in our view).

Facilities such as the one proposed should be based on a master-planned approach to identify suitable locations, and clear policy and not led in a unstructured/ haphazard way by private developers making speculative applications of this nature on the basis that they have found a willing farm landowner near an existing substation facility (that we consider would itself not have been approved by the Planning Authority when it was constructed in the mid-1960s, had it been submitted today).

None of the proposals contained in the new submission by Low Carbon alleviate any of our initial concerns with the previously submitted scheme. You will find an overwhelming objection to this scheme in the local community; government guidance⁴ states: "The views of local communities likely to be affected should be listened to". The reasons for the objection are blindingly obvious and we hope that PINS will see this and reach the same conclusion as the Local Planning Authority did last year.

We invite the Inspectorate to come meet with us to see firsthand the devastating implications that this scheme (if permitted to proceed) would have on the countryside.

Yours faithfully



Ian Stumpf

For and on behalf of:

(Ian Stumpf

(Charlie Stumpf

(Edward Stumpf

(Beverley Stumpf

³ Paragraphs 7.10 / 7.11 of the Applicant's Planning Statement.

⁴ [Renewable and low carbon energy - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/renewable-and-low-carbon-energy#solar-farms) https://www.gov.uk/guidance/renewable-and-low-carbon-energy#solar-farms