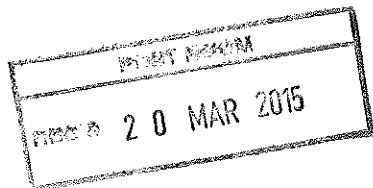


AS 1



Stansmore Hall Farm,
Tickhill Lane,
Dilhorne,
Stoke-on-Trent,
Staffordshire.
ST10 2PJ.
March 17th 2015.

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council,
Moorlands House,
Stockwell Street,
Leek,
Staffordshire,
ST13 6HQ.

RE: SMD/2015/0088; Proposed Solar Power Generation at Heywood Grange, Tickhill Lane, Dilhorne.

To whom it may concern,

As a resident of the adjacent property to the land of the proposed development above, I am writing to register my strong objection to the development for the reasons below:

1. Ground Water Management

The ONLY water supply to Stansmore Hall Farm is sourced from a licensed under-ground collecting chamber in Stansmore Wood that is fed from unknown underground aquifers that channel rain water from neighbouring land, including the land of this development. The documents of the applicant discuss channelling rain water off the site but this is precisely the activity that will have an impact when performed over such a larger area. In simple terms, the planned action of draining-off the rain water will be equivalent to erecting a large warehouse on the site.

Obviously the applicant will claim that there is no risk, but based on the fact they:

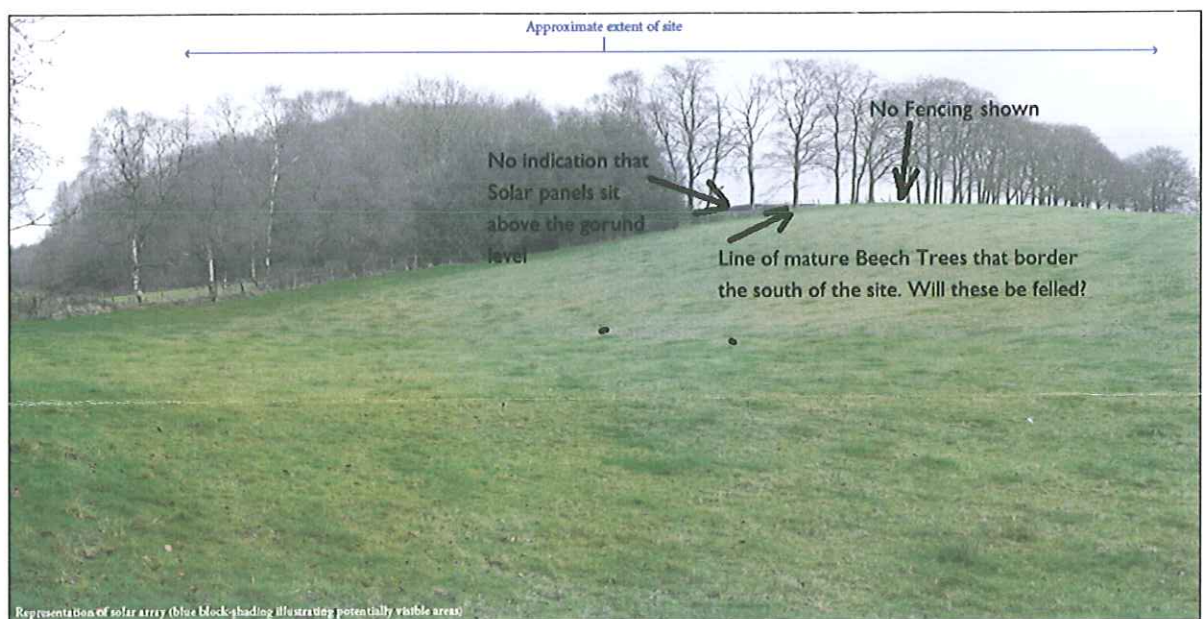
- i. Know nothing of the local area
- ii. Are not hydrologists

they simply cannot comment.

Furthermore, if this development is allowed to proceed and our water supply fails at a later date (which it has NEVER done in neither my 47 year experience nor my parents 53 year experience of the area), then what action is open to me once the damage has been done? NONE of the highly biased environmental reports provided by the applicant, nor your own report that casually dismissed the need for an EIA even considered this factor.

2. Visual Impact

I am frankly disgusted with the “visual impact” study that has been carried out. By way of example, the photo below (View Point 1) simply has a photo-rendering that colours-in the grassland to be occupied by the development.



It fails to:

- i. Add representative shading to reflect the fact that the solar panels will be several metres HIGHER than the ground
 - ii. Add shading to reflect the fact that there will be a 2m high metal fence
 - iii. Have neglected to specify the fate of the line of mature Beech trees visible in the photograph that form the border between Stansmore Hall Farm and the south of the development. I doubt that these trees will be retained as they will shade the solar cells in this area but I've not (as yet) found any mention of the applicant's plans. Obviously the felling of this line of trees will significantly alter the visual impact from Tickhill Lane and the public footpath.
- ## 3. Decommissioning/Bankruptcy
- The application merely states that the site will decommissioned at the end of its operational life and there is NO statement of a plan in the event of the bankruptcy of the operators.

4. Traffic and noise inconvenience during the construction phase.

The volume and type of traffic requiring access to the site is totally incompatible with Tickhill Lane and will, frankly, make our life hell.

Finally, I hold 2 degrees in Electrical Engineering and, for the last 6 years have operated as a consultant in electrical energy management. I am frankly baffled that everyone bangs-on about how large-scale PV developments reduce CO₂. Unfortunately, the “elephant in the room” is that developments like this actually make the management of the wider power grid much harder and, in order to guarantee supply, network operators rely on maintaining reserve generating capacity such as huge banks of diesel generator sets. The inconvenient truth is that the additional CO₂ of this reserve capacity is carefully forgotten about when the uninformed are salivating over the apparent environmental benefits of applications such as this.

It would be easy to dismiss our concerns as a NIMBY (Not in My Backyard) rant. However, please consider that to date my backyard is already equipped with:

- Two sets pylons for the National Grid
- One 12-inch, high pressure gas pipeline for the Gas Transmission System
- One underground electricity distribution network to support JCB (that was routed through the south western boundary of the Stansmore Hall Farm down Tickhill Lane to minimise the storm of protests if it had been routed via a more direct route)
- One steam railway that sets fire to fences and grassland at will
- One quarry that regularly floods Tickhill Lane and our water-courses as well as attracting illegal trials bikers/quadbikers.

In short, our backyard is already full!

I will be grateful if you will note my concerns at the appropriate time.

Yours faithfully,

R.W. Brassington PhD. BSc (Hons). CEng. MIET.

Resident.

