

**Hambleton District Council
Parish Council Consultation**

Application ref: **21/03042/FUL**

Date of this consultation: 25 November 2022 Latest date for receipt of reply: 16 December 2022

DETAILS OF APPLICATION SUBMITTED

PROPOSAL: Application for Installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) array / solar farm with associated infrastructure – as amended (additional and revised plans, visualisations and other documents received by Hambleton District Council on 27.06.2022 and 22.11.2022).

LOCATION: Woolpots Solar Farm, OS Field 2700, Carlton Husthwaite

YOUR CONTACT AT THE COUNCIL FOR THIS APPLICATION

Planning Officer: Mr Ian Nesbit Email: Planning@hambleton.gov.uk

Telephone: 01609 779977

YOUR COUNCIL'S RESPONSE (*Delete as appropriate)

* This Council wishes to see the application **REFUSED** (please give reasons below).

Husthwaite Parish Council appreciate the overall reduction in area of the Woolpots Solar Farm site but remain of the view that the scheme will have a very adverse impact on the surrounding environment and landscape contrary to the Hambleton Plan, in particular Policies S5, E7 and RM6. It will also erode the close relationship of our historic settlement to the wider rural landscape which is very important to parishioners. In particular we note that, due to the topography, Woolpots North will remain highly visible from both conservation villages and from the Howardian Hills AONB and that an increased density of the fixed panels may increase the visual impact. We understand that plans for the site have been reduced by 39%, but the cumulative impact of this new development, alongside the 220 acres already in situ at Boscar Grange and Peter Hill Solar Farms, has a detrimental impact on the rural character of our village and is an additional loss of very productive agricultural land. Additionally, we note that if this application is approved, there will be no further capacity in our Sub-station for any smaller / community schemes which would be more welcome within the area.

In addition, the Parish Council remains concerned by the proximity of the Electricity Sub-compound and Battery Storage facility to the road and believe it to be visually intrusive on the entrance to our village and an industrialisation of our rural landscape. There continue to be serious fears about the safety of the BESS, which is situated extremely near to the Ethylene Pipeline, after reports of uncontrollable fires in other battery storage facilities. Therefore, the Parish Council would like assurances that a suitable water source has been identified in case of emergency and that a drainage interceptor trap would be installed around the facility to prevent an environmental disaster should excesses of water be needed to control a fire.

With regards to the reduction in storage batteries/inverters on site, this is welcomed but will it result in the inclusion of more or larger batteries within the Battery Energy Storage System? Furthermore, we would like confirmation that there will be no noise or light pollution from the sub-station compound / BESS as these important issues do not seem to have been addressed adequately in the application.

The Parish Council would also like to see consideration given to the effect of this solar array on long standing businesses, especially the nearby well-established busy commercial airfield who provide a comprehensive range of services. Therefore, we would be grateful if the concerns raised

by the CAA and GAAC regarding the Airfield Safety Area of Baxby Aerodrome could be investigated before any planning permission is given.

Husthwaite is a popular tourist village, and many local businesses depend on tourism, so the Parish Council is very concerned about both short-term and long-term impacts on the local economy (Policy EG8). In particular, as the construction of both halves of this development is liable to cause considerable disruption on the extremely narrow roads leading to our villages, Husthwaite Parish Council would insist that a detailed Construction Management Plan containing the following conditions are applied and adhered to should any planning permission be approved:

- Hours of operation are limited to 8am until 5pm Monday to Friday and 8am until 1pm on Saturdays. No Sunday or bank holiday working.
- Plant and materials must be stored within the site boundary, which should be secure.
- Parking for ALL construction traffic MUST be provided on site and no parking should be allowed on the sides of the highway.
- Deliveries should be restricted to avoid school drop off / pick up times to alleviate traffic congestion on the narrow lanes into the village.
- All unloading of materials should take place on site and vehicles must be able to access and leave the site in a forward gear.
- Clean access should be provided to the site and wheel cleaning facilities should be available to ensure no mud or grit is transferred onto the existing highway.

It is understood from the plans that cable laying will take place on Ings Lane and Bell Lane which are both Public Rights of Way. Therefore, we would insist that public access is maintained throughout, and sufficient safety precautions are put in place to safeguard protected species and users of the PROW while construction work is underway.

Furthermore, we would like assurances that sufficient screening will be provided by the developer to limit the visual impact of the development and no future development or expansion of the application site will be allowed.

Finally, we note that there is no mention of any community payback initiative for the two closest villages (Husthwaite & Carlton Husthwaite) who will be most affected by this development.

Do you wish to be consulted, should minor amendments to the scheme be submitted? **YES / NO**

Signed: *CL Fenwick* on behalf of **Husthwaite** Parish Council. Date: 14 December 2022

Please return completed form to:
Hambleton District Council, Civic Centre, Stonecross, Northallerton, North Yorkshire, DL6 2UU