

18<sup>th</sup> July 2014

Dear Sir/ Madam

**Planning Application CB/14/02447 Faldo Farm, Faldo Road, Barton Le Clay**

The need for solar energy arises from the Climate Change Act 2008. The Act acknowledges Carbon emissions from extant energy sources are a cause of climate change. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report; Impact, Adaption and Vulnerability describes the impact of climate change on human and natural systems. The Climate Change Act sets legally binding targets to reduce emissions by at least 80% from 1990 levels by 2050. A European Union Directive 2009/28/EC sets the Government another target; by 2020 15% of all UK energy consumption is to come from renewable sources.

CPRE Bedfordshire believes the most suitable and, as yet, largely untapped location for solar technologies is on large-scale industrial and other buildings with major roof surfaces. Part 2 of the Government's UK Solar PV Strategy quantified part of this potential estimating there are currently 250,000 hectares of south-facing commercial roofs in the UK.

CPRE Bedfordshire has examined the content of the planning application and the characteristics of the landscape in the area surrounding the proposed solar farm. This area consists of distinctive land form features with strong intervisibility between them; Sundon Hills, Sharpenhoe Clappers and the Pulloxhill ridge; these extend down to the 'Bottoms' within the Harlington Vale. The vale has no large scale modern development within it. Small scale roads, tracks, public bridleways, and footpaths, the most notable example being the Chiltern Way, traverse the vale that is entirely arable farmland.

CPRE Bedfordshire objects to the location of the Solar Farm in the Parish of Pulloxhill for the following reasons:

- 1) the solar farm when viewed from the publicly accessible vantage points on the Pulloxhill ridge will cause harm to the landscape's character and quality. Further we are aware of a proposal for another solar farm nearby at Brook End and have concern about the potential cumulative harm both will cause.
- 2) the solar farm abuts the Nationally protected Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and is bounded by the John Bunyan Trail and other public footpaths. The solar farm will cause harm to views of the Harlington Vale from Sharpenhoe Clappers, Smithcombe Hill and Barton Hills Nature Reserve all of which are situated within the Chilterns AONB.
- 3) the solar farm will be located on the Best and Most Versatile Land (BMVL). We believe this land is Grade 2 Agricultural Land and therefore its potential loss is at odds with Government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), its Solar PV policy, and Central Bedfordshire's emerging Solar Farm Development policy, all of which set out to protect BMVL.
- 4) the proposed access to the solar farm will be across Green Belt Land. We believe this access is inappropriate Green Belt development as defined in the NPPF.

*25 years of standing up for Bedfordshire's countryside 1987-2012*

CPRE Bedfordshire is the Bedfordshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England which exists to promote the beauty, tranquillity and diversity of rural England.  
We advocate positive solutions for the long term future of the countryside.

Yours sincerely



Michael Stonnell

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10 Jan 2014

Dear Sir,

Planning Application CB/14/00467 Solar Farm, Folds Road, Barton le Clay

The need to act on energy issues from the Climate Change Act 2008, the Act acknowledges Carbon emissions from fossil fuel energy sources are a cause of climate change. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report, Impact, Adaption and Vulnerability describes the impact of climate change on human and natural systems. The Climate Change Act sets legally binding targets to reduce emissions of at most 60% from 1990 levels by 2050. A European Union Directive 2009/29/EC sets the government another target, by 2020 15% of all UK energy consumption is to come from renewable sources.

CPRE Bedfordshire believes the most suitable and, as yet, largely untapped source of renewable energy is large-scale industrial and other buildings with major roof surfaces. From this we estimate that your Solar Farm is a highly qualified part of this potential estimating there are currently 250,000 new solar panels including commercial roofs in the UK.

CPRE Bedfordshire has considered the proposed solar farm in relation to the character and the characteristics of the landscape in the area surrounding the proposed solar farm. The area consists of distinctive and historic features with strong intervisibility between them. Features include, Hangerstone Clappers and the Pulloxhill ridge. These extend down to the 'Barton Hill' with the Hangerstone Vale. The vale has no large scale features or landmarks within it. Small scale roads, tracks, paths, bridleways, and footpaths, the most notable feature is being the Chiltern Way, however the vale that is entirely open and farmland.

CPRE Bedfordshire objects to the location of the Solar Farm in the Vale of Pulloxhill for the following reasons:

1) The solar farm when viewed from the publicly accessible vantage point from the Pulloxhill ridge will detract from the landscape's character and quality. Further we are aware of a potential for erosion on the ridge, the loss of hedges and trees have concern about the potential cumulative impact it will cause.

2) The solar farm will detract from the historic and cultural landscape. The solar farm will detract from the historic landscape from the Hangerstone Vale, the Hangerstone Vale and Barton Hill. The solar farm will detract from the historic landscape from the Hangerstone Vale, the Hangerstone Vale and Barton Hill. The solar farm will detract from the historic landscape from the Hangerstone Vale, the Hangerstone Vale and Barton Hill.

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