

Kronos Solar Projects

Councillors Huffer, Parry, Boddington
The Chancery
Abbey Foregate
Shrewsbury
Shropshire
SY2 5DE

Dear Councillor Huffer,
Dear Councillor Parry,
Dear Councillor Boddington,

We would like to take the opportunity to make you aware of an upcoming planning application by us, Kronos Solar, for a solar park North East of Ludlow, which would fall into the ward of Councillor Huffer, located in proximity to the wards of Councillor Boddington and Councillor Parry. Given your importance in this context, we would like to inform you very early in the process.

To start with, we are well aware of the controversial history of solar parks particularly in the South of Shropshire. Especially when compared to some of these schemes, we think we have a very good and acceptable proposal. We have developed and built more than 25 solar parks in the UK, and we have supported Cornwall Council on its solar strategy at the inception of the UK solar industry in 2010. With this genuine solar heritage, we follow best practice procedures and site selection with every single development we propose.

With the attached 2 pages and this introductory letter, we seek to highlight for you some of the most important points of the proposed scheme, for which we have already held an initial Public Consultation in the Parish of Bitterley on March 31st, prior to the submission of the application. The public consultation was well received, with approximately 45 people attending. In the course of the consultation and also prior to that, in correspondence with the Council, we were able to gather feedback, and to account for several suggestions and concerns in the application. This has, amongst other points, led to the reduction of the site in scale by approximately 40%, to avoid visual and landscape impacts. The application has now been submitted to the Council, and should be validated any time soon.

Apart from the “green benefits”, which probably do not need further explaining, key aspects of the proposal can be summarized as follows:

1. **No harm to the AONB** - There would be no impact on the AONB to the North of Ludlow, as the proposed site is located in considerable distance (1.4 km). Also due to the topography, there is no visibility
2. **Generation where there is demand** - The site is co-located with an existing major substation, and the electricity would be generated at the same voltage level, at which it is consumed

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locally, in Ludlow. No new grid infrastructure such as pylons would be required for the development as the connection would be underground. Furthermore, with the substation, and the nearby business park, industrial elements in proximity apply today.

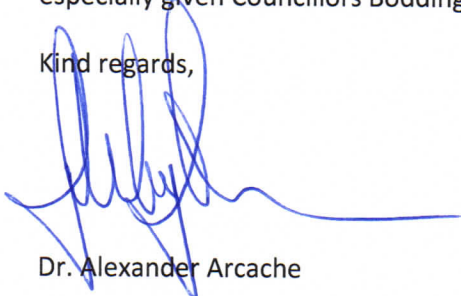
3. **Very limited landscape and visual impacts** - The professional Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment confirms very limited impacts, concentrated on the very local level. The professional LVIA states "The visual impact of the proposal is limited to the immediate vicinity of the application site with most visual receptors having been assessed as being negligibly affected" and "The site is naturally shielded from view by trees and hedgerows in nearly all directions."
4. **Not best and most versatile farm land** - The proposal is accompanied by a comprehensive Agricultural Land Classification assessment in line with NPPF and MAFF guidelines, which confirms the land is of low land grade (3b)
5. **No footpaths** – there are no public footpaths or bridle ways across, along or even close to the proposed site
6. **No impact on heritage or archaeological assets** – there would be no such assets adversely affected by the proposed development, as confirmed by the professional surveys thereto

Following the Public Consultation, we have submitted a community benefit proposal to the local Parish Council (PC), for which we seek feedback by the PC over the coming months. We have offered to carry out another public meeting, and it was considered that this might be helpful, at the time when the Parish Council will be asked by the County Council to vote in support or refusal for the proposed development.

Noteworthy, we were surprised to hear that none of the previous large scale solar applicants had carried out public meetings locally, so this effort was appreciated. The local concerns voiced centered around construction traffic, the general fact that the site could not be made invisible, and the general question on the need for this scale of developments. Particularly the concern over visual impacts was reflected in the avoidance of the higher lying ground of the site, and focus only on the lower lying ground, which is much less visible from any vantage points. The application also includes a comprehensive Construction and Transport Management Plan.

Looking ahead, you will certainly be able to receive further information through the planning consultation process. At the same time, we would be more than happy to provide further information directly to you, or to personally meet, as much as you feel this would be appropriate, especially given Councillors Boddington's and Huffer's seat in the Planning Committee.

Kind regards,



Dr. Alexander Arcache