

Rob Riding

From: Richard Moore <richard.moore@ensoenergy.co.uk>
Sent: 30 November 2023 15:17
To: Joshua FITZWATER
Subject: 23/00532/FUL - Southlands Solar Farm committee report
Attachments: Sandon Brook Solar Farm Appeal Decision 3300222.pdf; Crays Hall BOOM _3318171 Appeal Decision GB.pdf; Solar & BESS - Halloughton - Newark and Sherwood.pdf

Good afternoon Joshua

I have read your Committee Report for the Southlands application and I wanted to raise the following substantive points:

- Where you say at paragraph 6.8 that neither EN-1 or EN-3 cover solar or batteries:
 - o EN-1 discusses at renewable and low carbon generation at length (3.3.13-3.3.31) and how the UK energy system in 2050 is *"likely to be comprised of predominantly of wind and solar"*, and talks about the *"key role"* that storage has to play in achieving net zero.
 - o EN-3 does explicitly cover Solar PV Generation at Section 3.10 (pages 82-99). Indeed, one of the first points at 3.10.2 states *"government is supportive of solar that is co-located with other functions (for example, agriculture, onshore wind generation, or storage) to maximise the efficiency of land use"*.
- Section 5 states Basildon District Council has objected to the project. This is not accurate; Basildon Council do raise concerns in their response, dated 18th April 2023, but do not explicitly state anywhere that they object to the development.
- On Biodiversity Net Gain at 6.151 that a 138% gain in habitat units and 85% in hedgerow units you say *"there is nothing special or exceptional about the proposal"*. See attached decisions at Sandon Brook (Chelmsford), Crays Hall (Basildon) and Hullaughton (Nottinghamshire) where the Planning Inspectors attach substantial and significant weight to BNG scores, less than what we achieve at Southlands. This is just a small sample of appeals, I can provide more.
- Other documents that form material considerations that haven't been included in this report are:
 - o The Government's Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener (2021)
 - o The British Energy Security Strategy (2022)

You may wish to update your report, or provide an update note to members prior to the meeting, because as it stands there are fundamental errors and omissions that may impact the committee decision making.

Kind regards
Rich

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