



FAO Tony Pope  
Forest of Dean District Council,  
Council Offices,  
High Street,  
Coleford,  
Gloucestershire GL16 8HG

18 November 2015

Gloucestershire  
Branch

Dear Mr. Pope,

**Planning Application Reference P0664/15/FUL  
Installation of a 49.9MW solar farm and associated infrastructure  
including stock proof fencing and transformers, grid connection hub,  
CCTV, landscaping, access improvements and underground cabling for  
a temporary period of 25 years**

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College Green  
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CPRE Gloucestershire Branch wrote to the Council on 22 July 2015 with a formal objection to the original planning application for this solar PV development.

President  
Dame Janet Trotter DBE  
Chairman  
Charlie Watson  
Vice-Chairman  
Richard Lloyd MBE  
Office Manager and Planning Advisor  
Lisa Belfield  
Hon. Secretary  
David Bayne  
Hon. Treasurer  
Julian Oxley  
Hon. Membership Secretary  
Elizabeth Bourne

We now write in response to the proposed amendments to that original planning application. You have already received a letter from us dated 11 November dealing specifically with agricultural land quality. This letter covers all other matters arising from the proposed changes. We have examined all of the application documents recently posted on the Council's website, in particular the Addendum to the Environmental Statement.

The Campaign to Protect Rural England exists to promote the beauty, tranquillity and diversity of rural England by encouraging the sustainable use of land and other natural resources in town and country.

We note first of all that the area to be occupied by solar panels is proposed to be reduced by just over 40 acres, by not installing panels in fields 1, 2 and 4. This results in scarcely any reduction to the perimeter of the development which adjoins or is close to the estuary bank. However, the development as a whole still occupies a very significant part of the Awre peninsula and, in terms of its proximity to the estuary, is the most prominent part of it. Any diminution of the landscape impact is, therefore, considerably less than the reduction in the site area.

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Second, Paragraph 2.2.9 of the Addendum to the Environmental Statement states that it is "highly unlikely" that solar panels will be visible from the Cotswold AONB. We should like to see evidence to support this assertion, which is repeated on (and presumably derived from) Page 6 of the Solar Photovoltaic Glint and Glare Study. Figure 7 of this Study does not even identify the location of the site.

Third, in 5.2.2, we would expect a more technically robust term being used rather than "reasonably quiet" in the consideration of the noise created by the main transformer and grid connection. At the very least, we would expect this to be cross-referenced to the relevant parts of Appendix 5.

As a result, CPRE wishes to emphasise strongly that, despite the volume of new material submitted, the proposed changes do not in any way allay our concerns regarding the proposed development. We still consider that it constitutes the industrialisation of a particularly sensitive landscape on a massive and unacceptable scale and that the adverse effects of the proposed development substantially outweigh the benefits.

Once again, we respectfully request the Council to refuse the application.

Yours sincerely,

Charlie Watson  
Chairman, CPRE Gloucestershire