

Second Tabled Update for Item 2.1 - 25/503466/FULL Land North of Solar Farm, Eastchurch.

Since the first Tabled Update was sent through to Members earlier this morning, comments have today been received from the CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England).

Their comments are available to view at the following link:

<https://pa.midkent.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=T11MQFTYN1500>

In summary they object to this application on the following grounds:

- it is not clear whether a connection agreement has been granted by the National Grid
- loss of best and most versatile Agricultural land
- industrialisation of the countryside
- impact upon users of the Public Rights of Way network – they note the concerns expressed by the KCC PRow officer about the obstruction of a claimed route
- proximity of Swale Ramsar site and Special Protection Area (SPA) and SSSI and the Medway Estuary Marshes Ramsar site and SPA and the harm that would result to wintering birds and the presence of suitable habitat for breeding birds, foraging bats, water vole, otter, reptiles and hedgehogs.

In respect of the first bullet, applications for connection to the National Grid operate separately from the planning process. In respect of the loss of BMV agricultural land, this is discussed in the committee report at paragraphs 7.2.32 – 7.2.35, as well as the conclusion at paragraph 7.16.29. Visual impacts on the countryside are discussed throughout the committee report, but in particular section 7.3. In respect of PRow, as per the earlier Tabled Update, the implications of this are discussed in the committee report, particularly at paragraph 7.9.30. In respect of impacts on habitats, this is discussed in paragraphs 7.8.1 – 7.8.29 of the committee report.