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Planning Appeal 3375110

Bunny Old Woods Solar Power Station

Notes

Heritage

- The proposed site is across a landscape that has been evolving for thousands of years. Earliest known Archaeology is Bronze age – 2000 BCE
- Likely to be older material than that – local significance
- 5,000 years of human activity – always rural, never industrial scale until now
- There must be a requirement to complete the NCC mandated archaeology prior to the full development

Never Final Proposal

- Exagen seem incapable of producing a complete, comprehensive, coherent and detailed plan for their proposal. Consultees and Objectors have to keep responding to small changes – but the fundamental basis of the original RBC reasons for rejection have not addressed – the Exagen proposal is still fundamentally the same one.
- We don't want them to fiddle at the margins, we want them to go away.

Marginal Ecology Mitigations

- New response on Otters, in the last few days (APPELLANT'S OLD WOOD ECOLOGY NOTE TO PARTIES 4 March). They claim that Otter territories can be large and only a small amount of Kingston Brook is within the boundary of their site. However, if the site disturbs the as yet imprecisely understood territory,

otters being creatures shy from human activity are likely to leave. 10m no build disturbance boundaries around the watercourse are insufficient.

- Rumour has it that the Exagen have acquired nearby land to act as a skylark refuge. Nothing on the RBC planning portal as of 17.30pm 9th March
- Yesterday there were 8-10 skylarks in the northern fields bordering Bunny Old Woods along the PROW towards Wysall
- No publicly available information on the field – but a 30 hectare field somewhere else represents only 20-25% of the site (115Ha)
- Skylarks are highly territorial – they don't flock together – there is no such thing as high density housing for skylarks
- The proposed refuge will only support 2-3 pairs of Skylarks
- Skylarks also have a preference for wide open fields to ground nest in – no overlooking perches for predators. The 'refuge' field will only be attractive if it is well away from the development, other vantage points (like tall trees, structures).
- If the refuge field is suitable site for skylarks, it is likely to be populated already, and therefore there will be no refuge at all for any of the population driven out by the development.

Summary

The Exagen proposal is only marginally different to the original. It is still

- Next to another similarly sized solar power site
- 115 hectares / 284 acres of land
- Surrounding the footpath between Bunny Old Woods and Wysall
- With capacity to produce 49.9 MW of power

The original Rushcliffe reasons for rejection have not been addressed

1. Cumulative Visual Impact with the approved Highfield Solar Power site, landscape character
2. Impact on Conservation Areas – particularly Wysall
3. Ecology – skylarks
4. BESS