



Nottinghamshire

Date:

Reference Number: 24/00161/FUL

Applicant: Andrew Mott

Development: Construction, operation and subsequent decommissioning of a renewable energy park comprising ground mounted Solar PV with co-located battery energy storage system (BESS) at the point of connection, together with associated infrastructure, access, landscaping and cabling.

Location: Land West Of Bradmore Road And North Of Wysall Road Land West Of Wysall Wysall

Sir/Madam

Notts Area Ramblers generally support the establishment of solar farms. We tend to seek mitigations for the loss of amenity and the appreciation of the countryside in terms of views and so on. We withdrew our objection to the adjacent solar farm when the design was changed to provide a bigger buffer between Bunny Old Wood and the panels themselves. In that case, there was little loss of views for those walking the nearby rights of way.

In the case of this development, there are some serious concerns that lead Notts Area Ramblers to raise an **objection** at this stage.

The proposed development is crossed by 3 no PROWs, Costock FP7, Wysall FP3 and FP4.

Costock FP7 and Wysall FP3 form part of the Notts Wolds Way long distance footpath and also provide a footpath alternative for the section of the Midshires Way between Wysall and Bunny. These are very popular footpaths that provide vital access to the countryside for local inhabitants and visitors to the area.

The elevated northern section of the development will enclose Costock FP7 and part of Wysall FP3 with a 2.4m high fence for a distance of 1 kilometre southwards after emerging from Bunny Old Wood. Currently, through the northern area of the proposed development, the walker enjoys expansive, panoramic views of the Nottinghamshire Wolds as the land slopes southwards down to Kingston Brook before rising to the distant horizon.

The southern section of the development will be clearly visible from Wysall FP3, particularly the section running westward and downhill from map reference SK600274.

The size of the proposed solar park and its immediate proximity to the PRoWs will be significantly detrimental to the walkers' enjoyment as the natural characteristic beauty of the Wolds countryside will be irreparably diminished.

The developer has proposed measures to mitigate the negative visual impact of the adjacent solar arrays by increasing the buffer area to the side of the footpaths and planting hedgerows and hedgerow trees to screen and filter the visibility of the panels. It would take many years for this screening to mature and it will be less effective in winter months. If effective however, the screening will also obscure the existing panoramic views and therefore deny the walker the current experience of wide open space.

It is noted that the alignment and access to the footpaths is maintained throughout the construction and operation and subsequent decommissioning of the proposed development.



**View South
Eastward on
exiting Bunny
Old Wood on
Costock FP7**



**View South
Westward from
Wysall FP3 at
Grid Ref
SK600274**



In conclusion, we note that there are attempts to mitigate the loss of enjoyment of the countryside that this development causes. However, the loss of wider views from the various paths leads us to lodge an objection.

