

## **Planning application Brynrhyd Solar Farm DNS/3260565**

I am writing to **object** to the proposal by Brynrhyd Solar Farm Ltd (Island Green Power Ltd) to build a 160 acre solar farm development.

### **Size and scale**

The planning proposal represents a development of national significance due to its size, scale and magnitude.

In its entirety the colossal proposal amounts to circa 160 acres (circa 80 football pitches) and comprises of circa 30 fields +. It is not of an appropriate scale to the receiving landscape.

In comparison, Llanedi (proposed site area) is a small rural country hamlet/community. The proposal would completely dwarf and overbear the village. Thus causing significant, unacceptable and detrimental long term harm to the character, appearance of the surrounding area.

Policies seek to protect rural landscapes for their intrinsic beauty and recognise the need to protect and enhance biodiversity.

The proposed scheme has not been carefully sited in relation to the existing settlement.

### **Cumulative landscape and effect of a third solar farm**

Solar PV panel schemes should not dominate in any one locality.

There is already an accumulation of field solar panels in the vicinity.

Clawdd Ddu Solar Farm is already in existence and is sited by the proposed scheme.

Permission has also recently been granted for a second solar farm (Tycroes Solar Farm - DNS/3227364) which will border the existing Clawdd Ddu Solar Farm.

The solar PV developments are already dominant in this locality. Without the need for an additional further potential 160 acre scheme adding to it. Cumulative impact of a third solar farm in close proximity – cumulative impact of individual schemes.

### **Agricultural land**

There is no justification to remove good quality prime farmland that is productive and has been actively farmed for generations. This land is a finite resource (green space) which should be protected for our future generations. There are many other more appropriate areas of land (i.e. previously developed land) that could be developed and would not suffer such a detrimental impact and loss of amenity.

Full justification has not been demonstrated why this site should be developed above more suitable areas of land. Government policy appears to be against all such applications to misuse agricultural land favouring brownfield sites. Loss of agricultural production/food production.

The scheme would virtually sterilise large swathes of good productive agricultural land for a minimum 40 years +. It is a false claim by developer that the land would be enhanced. Clearly, they

have no knowledge of good farming practice, food production, livestock, habitat protection and flora/fauna. The land would do the opposite and diminish.

The proposal would result in a great loss of agricultural land which is currently being actively farmed.

The loss of such land is not supported by the “National Policy Planning Framework requirements which encourage the use of previously developed land or poorer quality land over the better quality land areas for solar farm developments”.

### **Biodiversity and loss of habitat**

There are many species that would see their natural habitat destroyed by this scheme.

The marsh fritillary butterfly habituates this site and is a highly threatened species. It is subject to many SSSI's and conservation status. This butterfly requires extensive habitat networks to survive. Additionally sheep grazing which the applicant is proposing is unsuitable as they preferentially graze the larvae food plant and produce a short homogenous sward.

Additional species such as breeding skylark, meadow pitt, red kite, curlews and bats also occupy this site.

The rare habitat enjoyed by both the Skylark, and Stone Curlew (both of them protected species which require open field sites, in order to see approaching predators) would be rendered unusable if covered by solar panels, and both species would be displaced. RSPB and BTO have recently confirmed their concerns in this regard.

### **Greenbelt**

Inappropriate development in the greenbelt. The applicant has failed to demonstrate special circumstances why a project of this scale and magnitude should proceed. The proposal would cause significant and unacceptable harm to the character and appearance of the surrounding area.

### **Screening**

I do not believe that the applicant has demonstrated that there is sufficient screening for the apparatus and is devoid of offering adequate mitigation measures. Any natural screening that may be present will soon vastly diminish during the winter months.

Additionally natural screening could be removed by local landowners. What if any measures are in place to avoid this happening? Whilst I appreciate in some cases, trees can have TPO's but in many cases they are not protected. The potential scheme would remove vast areas of land from productive agricultural use for local landowners. Hence, the remaining agricultural land post scheme will be a commodity and clearance could take place to maximise the land area and use of the land available.

### **Landscape and Visual impact**

The proposed development due to its scale, siting and elevated nature of the site fails to have regard to its setting in the landscape and, therefore, would have an adverse effect on the visual amenity of the area and be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

Due to its nature, including its utilitarian design, reflective materials and regimented layout, the proposed solar farm would appear as an alien feature in the local countryside.

The solar farm would appear as a prominent and incongruous feature, large scale, and cause substantial harm to the appearance of the area and the rural setting of the village of Llanedi.

The proposal would also conflict with one of the core principles of the National Planning Policy Framework that planning should take account of the character of different areas, recognising the intrinsic beauty of the countryside.

### **Topography Dominate land form – circa 30 fields**

The solar farm will be clearly visible from many vantage points and areas in the village, public roads and areas beyond the surrounding countryside. It is impossible to screen much of the development from immediate and long distance views due to the topography of the site. .

The green space in Llanedi mainly comprises of small scale medieval field patterns; hence is very sensitive to solar panel development. I understand the proposed scheme covers circa 30 fields+.

### **Economic benefit**

There is no benefit to the local economy and the Welsh Government PPW and its statement of 'local ownership of energy generation in Wales'. The applicant is a multi-national developer (Island Green Power) who's overriding premise is financial gain above all else. The farmer in situ is a tenant hence is not the prime majority landowner. Llanedi would be irredeemably damaged at a stroke, by those based afar who care nothing for our local environment and the wellbeing of its inhabitants.

### **Construction**

Due to its extensive scale, the proposal would give rise to a significant increase in traffic movements to the site during the construction phase of the development. This would impact on the village causing an unacceptable level of disruption, inconvenience and disturbance to local residents.

### **Tourism, leisure and wellbeing – long term impact**

Llanedi is a pretty countryside rural hamlet where visitors and residents frequent to enjoy its natural beauty and lush green space. The very nature of the village and landscape would be negatively impacted beyond recognition by this colossal scheme. The rural amenity of Llanedi, loved for its rural setting and beautiful views would be ruined in an instant for a generation/s, (or longer if after 40 years it were to be renewed).

### **Noise**

The proposed development would also at times result in activity and noise, which would impair the tranquillity of the area.

### **Glint and glare**

Unwanted reflections from the panels will cause a nuisance and a safety hazard.

### **Water run off**

Surface water runoff from apparatus and impact on land and neighbouring owners.

## **Vandalism**

The apparatus could be a magnetic for theft and unwanted behaviour bringing a detrimental effect on the neighbourhood/community and residents.

## **Proposal outside development limits**

Carmarthenshire Solar PV Development Landscape sensitivity and capacity study "Large scale schemes located outside defined development limits may be permitted in exceptional circumstances". I do not believe that the applicant has successfully demonstrated this.

This scheme will cause harm to the environment in a multitude of ways.

It is clear logic that there are more appropriate areas within the county that could house a solar farm of this nature. The magnitude of the changes to the village would be colossal and the proposal would cause substantial harm to the rural, environment and community setting of Llanedi.

Whilst I appreciate the need for green energy, it should not be at all costs.

The scheme is out of proportion/inappropriate in contrast to the village and area in general.

As noted earlier, there are already two other solar farms that are already in the area (one due to be developed).

**All logic and common sense directs this application must be refused.**

Regards,

Alison Henderson