

Working to Protect the New Forest



## PLANNING COMMITTEE

Reply to: -

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Sent as attachment to Email only

17 May 2015

Chris Nash, The Planning Inspectorate  
Room 3/06, Temple Quay House  
2 The Square, Temple Quay  
Bristol BS1 6PN.

Dear Sir,

**PINS REF APP/B9506/W/15/3006387**

**Case Number 14/00817 Proposal Construction of a 14 hectare solar farm, to include solar panels to generate electricity, associated plant buildings; perimeter fencing; cctv cameras; landscaping and associated works**

New Forest Association (NFA) opposed this application and makes the following additional comments.

1. There were peculiar reasons why the first application for a large solar array in New Forest National Park at Cadland was not opposed by NFA. Adjacent to that site is all the electricity paraphernalia associated with a main power feed to the Isle of Wight which is visually very intrusive. In an effort, a generation ago, to better the ecological value of the estate wide margins had been planted around the fields used rendering the site and its boundary invisible. NFA can arrange for the inspector to view the site if requested.
2. NFA's attitude had already changed by the second application at Hamptworth on landscape grounds. Other than Cadland, NFA has opposed all applications including those withdrawn and none have been granted.
3. NFA disputes the applicant's comments re back up land. The right of common of pasture on the Crown lands applies to horses, cattle, donkeys and mules. Some large estates have a right of common of pasture of sheep but do not exercise it. There are rights of common of pasture of sheep on other commons to the north of the Crown lands but these are 18 miles away. It is simply not feasible to use land 18 miles from your common and presumably from your home for back up sheep grazing.
4. Currently within the National Park there are applications or consultations for circa 80 dwellings and 34 dwellings were completed in 2013/14. All this against a SE region quota of 11 per annum. The latest claimant count for this part of the national park is less than half a percent, less than one percentage for the park as a whole and 1.2% for New Forest District. Recreational pressure on the National Park from the built up areas to the west (Bournemouth & Poole built up area is now the country's 16th biggest) and South Hants built up area to the east (now the country's 7th biggest) is immense.

These statistics are recorded to indicate the difficulties the park faces now; considerations for 30 years hence are not relevant. This application is for land close to the south east border of the New Forest National Park and NFA considers it essential to especially protect these boundary regions to ensure the area of the park available for recreation and visual amenity does not shrink over the years and decades.

Yours faithfully,

Graham Baker, NFA Planning Committee