

Proposed Green Hill Solar Farm Old and Walgrave - Site A and A.2

You should have received, by post, a flyer from Green Hill Solar showing the proposed Scheme for a 500 megawatt solar farm, making it one of the biggest in the UK. The proposal covers nine sites and Site A straddles Old and Walgrave parishes, with eight parcels of land in Old and 21 in Walgrave, making a total of 429 acres. Site A.2 is 161 acres and is located on the Kettering Road, Walgrave junction to the A43. Both sites together total 590 acres.

In summary, the proposal is for an operational life of 60 years after which it will be decommissioned. During the operational life the solar panels would be replaced once and batteries at the storage facilities replaced twice. The equipment would be arrays of fixed and tracker panels at heights of 4.5 metres (15 feet) at greatest inclination and 2.5 metres (8 feet) when horizontal and sited at 0.4 metres off the ground. It is likely that there will be a need for an electrical substation at either of these sites, along with underground cabling to take the electricity to the National Grid.

As with all developments there are those in favour and those opposed, we would like to solicit your views so that when the time comes to give a response it will be the views of the village.

We invite you to see both sides of the argument:

Green Hill Solar, the developer has a website:

www.greenhillsolar.co.uk

Green Hill Solar published an Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report to consult with what is scoped in or out.

<http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/document/EN010170-000012>

The Planning Inspectorate have issued and adopted the Scoping Opinion to that document.

<http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/document/EN010170-000002>

Stop Green Hill Solar are a group that are against this development (as a whole) who support solar as part of the Government renewable energy strategy, but in their view, not on productive food but on brownfield sites and warehousing roofs.

www.stopgreenhillsolar.co.uk

There will be a Statutory Consultation period during September/October 2024. Green Hill Solar will prepare the full Environmental Statement during September to January 2025, this will accompany the Development Consent Order in February 2025 to the Secretary of State for a decision.

We would like to canvass the views of Old residents so that when the time comes for the Parish Council to give a response, should the planning application be submitted, it will be the views of the village, so we ask you to complete the following questionnaire below:

QUESTIONNAIRE

Do you have enough information to form an opinion for the proposed solar farm on land in Old?

Yes

Unsure

No

If no, or not sure, would you like more information?

Yes

Unsure

No

Would you be interested in attending any presentations the Parish Council may be able to organise or give further information about the public consultations?

Yes

Unsure

No

Do you have any views about the construction of a solar farm on farmland in Old parish?

The Parish Council would be pleased to hear your comments either written below and dropped into the post box on the wall of the Community Centre, Townson Close, or emailed to: survey@oldparishcouncil.uk by **27 September** for a report at the next Parish Council meeting on 9 October.