

RE: Boyah Grange Solar Farm EIA Screening Report

Firstly, Dale Abbey Parish Council would like to make clear that when and if a full planning application on the proposed Boyah Grange site is submitted, we will be making a clear and committed response. That response will be based on solid feedback collated and collected from our residents.

With regard to the screening report it's as you would expect, a very slick, very professional box ticking document that minimises the impact that this project would have on the proposed site and surrounding area. For instance, access to the site is totally inadequate from either direction considering the amount of construction traffic needed to carry out this development.

The EIA report states that the decommissioning stage after 40 years would return the land to agricultural use, but it doesn't say who would be responsible for ensuring that this actually happens. There doesn't seem to be any provision in the proposal for the unforeseen happening. What if, for instance, solar panels lose their cost effectiveness, say after 20 years, could there be an application for change of use on part or all of a site that could perhaps be considered industrial? It needs to be clearly affirmed that the only alternative to solar, on this site, would be agricultural.

With regard to biodiversity surveys being carried out by "professional ecologists", these ecologists need to meet the approval of other interested parties, not just the applicant. Their findings must be completely transparent and independent of their paymasters, and open to public scrutiny and account.

The authors of this report make the ridiculous claim: "the construction or operation phase is not anticipated to generate likely significant effects in relation to biodiversity" (Biodiversity 3.3.5) construction and operation of this site will have a HUGE IMPACT on biodiversity. HOW COULD IT NOT?

Under CULTURAL HERITAGE 3.10 : no mention is made of the old malthouse site or the 3 additional barn conversions being carried out close to Boyah Grange itself.

Under LANDSCAPE 3.11 they claim not, but are they hoping to close the existing public right of way? What does "impact on recreational receptors will be fully assessed" actually mean?

That concludes the parish councils response to the screening process. Many more questions remain, to which the parish council will be seeking more in-depth answers should a planning application be forthcoming.