



Lasswade District Civic Society

Fao: Adam Thomson
Planning Department
Midlothian Council
Fairfield House
8 Lothian Road
Dalkeith EH22 3ZN

c/o Hillwood
Braeside Road
Loanhead
EH20 9SF

2nd August 2015

Dear Sirs,

15/00603/SCR | EIA Screening Opinion for proposed solar farm | Melville Landfill Site Lasswade Road Lasswade

Lasswade District Civic Society has been established for over 40 years, and its adult membership now stands at around 400. Our constitution objectives include '... care for the beauty and character of the local area and the preservation of the general public amenity'. For these reasons, we are writing on behalf of the Society, and many local neighbours to express our concerns about a number of issues arising from the above document.

1. The document refers to The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2011, and not The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2011.
2. The Site is protected by the following policies set out in the Midlothian Local Development Plan 2008:
 - RP1 - Protection of the Countryside
 - RP2 - Protection of the Green Belt
 - RP3 - Prime agricultural land.
3. The Site is within a 1km distance of land additionally protected by the following policies set out in the Midlothian local Development Plan 2008:
 - RP4 - Areas of Great Landscape Value
 - RP5 - Protection of river valleys
 - RP8 - Regionally & locally important nature conservation sites
 - RP10 - The Conservation Areas of Mavisbank and Broomieknowe
 - RP11 - Nationally important gardens and designed landscapes
4. The Site is within a 5km distance of land additionally protected by the following policy set out in the Midlothian local Development Plan 2008:
 - RP16 - The Pentland Hills Regional Park
5. 12 hectares is a huge area of land.
We are very concerned about the visual impact of the solar farm on the landscape, and its visibility from the A768 and A720, and from Kingsacre Golf Course, particularly in view of the undulation of the landform and the proposed maximum height of the solar panels.



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6. We are concerned about the effect of the stock fence on the local deer population.

Finally, we are very concerned that this landfill site on Coal Authority land designated Development High Risk is 'fit for purpose'. We trust you will address these concerns in full when responding to the applicants.

Yours faithfully

Lasswade District Civic Society Committee,

Michael Stoneham, Rosemary Mackay, Adam Lansdown, Sheila Murray, Jacquie Dunlop,
Sheena Dryden, John Blackwell