

My family and I live at Bentley House, Bentley. Formerly The Vicarage, directly next to The Church of St Mary's, Bentley.

Our property would be abutting the proposed site. We have long views over the proposed site from our driveway, paddocks and garden. Similarly, the beautiful Grade II Star Listed St Mary's Church is a precious heritage site also with far reaching, open views which would be blighted by an industrial scale solar farm directly next-door.

I object to the applicant's assessment that the solar farm causes no harm to Bentley House. Although the views from my property are screened by the church, this does not detract from the effect that the solar farm will have on the setting of our home which is a non-designated heritage asset. The solar farm's proposed site would be visible all year around, particularly during the 9 months that the bushes and trees are not in full bloom.

I also object to the summation in the applicant's heritage report that the ongoing boundary works between my property and St Mary's Church, affected the setting of St Mary's. No historic yew trees were removed, only 2 overgrown leylandii, on OUR property, not the Church's, one of which had a very large split down the middle of the tree. The purpose of these works was predominantly to protect our power supply as the leylandii had grown so quickly and the lines were running through the trees. We had the full support from the church and its congregation for the works carried out.

I am also deeply disturbed by the prospect of huge numbers of large vehicles travelling along Church Road - a 'Quiet Lane' - where I live during the build phase which we understand could be as much as 18 months. This is a single-track road with many blind corners. A tragic accident occurred two and a half years ago when my husband was involved in a collision with a group of cyclists, one of whom very sadly lost his life on Church Road - the very route that is planned for innumerable vehicle movements during the build phase. The risk to pedestrians, horse riders, cyclists and other motorists is simply too high.

This is a ludicrous plan that seeks to benefit a few individuals to the detriment of many others. There would be lasting damage to the landscape, to the residents of Bentley, its wildlife as well as its numerous heritage assets.