

Cottenham Village Design Group

Planning application comments

S/0194/13/E1

Cottenham Cambridge - Solar Farm

The location isn't particularly close to any of the nearby main roads or walking routes (except the Drovers), so it shouldn't be especially visible other than from the Wilburton / Haddenham ridge. There isn't much existing screening from existing hedges/trees (as the document suggests) so it is very likely to have some undesirable impact, this will be limited to a few locations and very few people so it might be reasonably acceptable given the environmental benefits.

For any subsequent planning application we suggest the inclusion of details of landscaping to screen the installation from the west flank of the village and the lode.

Given the lack of existing screening we would also have concerns about security and hence security fencing might eventually be required, this may end up being more intrusive and visible than the panels.

'L/2: Essential elements of the parish's distinctive Fen Edge landscape character should be protected.

- *New developments should minimise the impact on existing landscape qualities and features.*
- *New developments should contribute positively to the quality of the landscape and enjoyment of the environment.*
- *There is considerable room for the improvement of wildlife habitat and protection. This creates opportunities for developers to address these aspects within their schemes and enhance the assets of the village.'* (Design Statement p.6)

'L/7: Protect vistas that contribute to the character and attractiveness of Cottenham.

- *The following vistas are designated as meriting special protection:*
- *towards Haddenham hill from the same place*
- *from Fen End Farm, looking back at the village*
- *the far reaches of Smithy Fen, looking out towards the Old West River*
- *the approaches to the Parish Church from the north of Long Drove and Church Lane*
- *Design should respond to the qualities of affected views with sensitivity and imagination, bearing in mind that scenery changes with weather and lighting conditions (such as length of shadow or phase of the moon), and seasonal changes in the natural and cultivated environment.*
- *Prevent undue damage to the view either by blocking, or unacceptably imposing on, a landmark or by creating an intrusive element in the view's foreground or middle ground.*
- *Protect backgrounds that give a context to landmarks. Opportunities exist for sculpting the skyline, but other tall structures should not detract from the prominence of existing structures.'* (Design Statement p.6)

'E/5: Commercial and industrial developments should be designed to high architectural standards.

- *Building design, materials and site layout should be compatible with the surrounding area and, where appropriate, reflect their Cottenham context.*
- *Reduce the visual impact of new and existing sites by planting native broadleaf species and hedgerow shrubs.'* (Design Statement p.3)

S/2571/12/FL

6 New Road Cottenham - Proposed dormer extension and alterations to front porch

We have no comment on this application.

S/2520/12/FL

65 Victory Way Cottenham - Single storey side and rear extension

We have no comment on this application.

Applications viewed and comments prepared on behalf of Cottenham Village Design Group by Alex Darby, Alex Thoukydides, Jennie Blood Smyth and Steven Poole, February 16th 2013. All quoted text is taken from the Cottenham Village Design Statement, Supplementary Planning Document: <http://www.cvdg.org/design-statement-2007.pdf>. Comments are based solely on the principles and guidelines set out in this document.