

I am writing to formally object to the proposed East Park Energy solar farm (EN010141), located near Kimbolton (PE19 5EG).

While I support renewable energy in principle, I object to this proposal due to its scale, location, and cumulative impact on the local environment and community.

The development, covering approximately 766 hectares, represents a significant industrialisation of rural countryside. It would fundamentally alter the character of the Kimbolton area and surrounding villages.

The proposal would result in the loss of productive agricultural land, likely including Best and Most Versatile (BMV) farmland. This conflicts with national planning policy, which seeks to protect such land and ensure sustainable land use. There is insufficient evidence that alternative sites—such as industrial rooftops, commercial buildings, and brownfield land—have been prioritised. The absence of a clear sequential approach raises concerns about inefficient land use. In particular, the lack of a national requirement for solar installation on new industrial and commercial buildings represents a significant policy gap, contributing to unnecessary pressure on agricultural land.

The proposal must also be considered in the context of cumulative impact. The Kimbolton area is already affected by multiple solar developments, including Kimbolton Solar Farm (22/01945/FUL), Rookery Farm Solar Farm (24/00883/FUL), and North Weald Solar Farm (24/00295/FUL). The addition of this scheme would result in an unacceptable concentration of solar infrastructure.

Experience from similar large-scale projects in Cambridgeshire, such as Sunnica, demonstrates that developments can be approved despite strong objections yet remain delayed, creating prolonged uncertainty for local communities without timely benefit.

The development would also harm biodiversity, fragment habitats, and introduce visual and environmental impacts inconsistent with the rural character of the area. Construction traffic and associated infrastructure would place additional strain on local roads and communities.

As a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project, the decision will rest with the Secretary of State, currently Ed Miliband. There is growing concern that current policy places insufficient weight on cumulative local impacts and land use considerations in favour of large-scale solar deployment.

In summary, this proposal represents inappropriate development in this location. It results in the loss of valuable agricultural land, fails to prioritise more suitable alternatives, contributes to cumulative overdevelopment, and harms the local environment and community.

For these reasons, I strongly urge refusal of development consent.

Yours faithfully,

Neil McAdam