

There is no compelling evidence that lower conflict alternative locations have been properly considered. The proposed sites are unusually dispersed across a large area which makes it less efficient and has more of an impact on the landscape.

The Battery Management Plan lacks details of the proposed emergency evacuation plan. It is well known that Lithium-ion batteries present an unacceptable risk of fire, explosion resulting in the dangerous emission of toxic gases which would have a detrimental impact on people's and animals lungs.

The Applicant includes landscaping for the sites but who is responsible for their ongoing maintenance? A case in point is the hundreds of trees that were planted for landscaping the areas around the recent improvements of the A14 in Huntingdonshire. The majority of them have died as no-one had responsibility for their ongoing maintenance. More details are needed regarding the ongoing maintenance and cleaning of the 700,000 panels to ensure that they are to operate to maximum efficiency.

There are few details as to who will be responsible for the disposal of the 70000 panels and the dismantling of the site after 40 years. How will the dismantling of the site be managed?

It has been estimated that up to 800 workers would be employed during the construction of the sites. Where are these workers going to come from and where will they be accommodated? What are the safeguards the applicant will apply to ensure that none of the workers are employed under Modern Slavery conditions?

The mental health and well being of local residents during the construction stage is an issue that seems to attract little attention. In what ways will this issue be addressed? What are the benefits of this scheme for local communities?

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Security of all the sites is an issue. Will there be 24 hour security at all the sites? The Solar Power Portal reported that the UK is entering 'peak period' of solar PV theft by 'fully industrialised' criminal network. March and April 2025 saw a 'significant rise' in criminal activity at UK solar projects. The East Park site is in a rural area with a low police presence and consequently would be attractive to criminal networks.