

Rachel Reed



17th August 2025

Planning Inspectorate / Local Planning Authority

Re: Objection and Request for Refusal – Fenwick Solar Farm (NSIP, EN010152) and Associated Thorpe Marsh BESS

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to register my strong objection to the proposed Fenwick Solar Farm (EN010152) and its associated reliance on the Thorpe Marsh Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). I respectfully request that consent be refused on the following grounds:

1. Lack of Deliverability under the Planning Act 2008

The application fails to demonstrate a viable and timely grid connection. The scheme depends upon reinforcement at Thorpe Marsh substation, yet no confirmed programme exists to provide the capacity required. Under National Policy Statement EN-1 (para. 4.2.2), applicants must prove their projects are technically and economically feasible. Without grid deliverability, this proposal cannot lawfully be consented.

2. Irrationality and Value-for-Money Concerns

Approving a scheme that risks long-term curtailment and stranded assets would be irrational and contrary to the Green Book and Managing Public Money. Investment in undeliverable infrastructure does not meet value-for-money tests and risks burdening both communities and consumers.

3. National Security Risks

The Thorpe Marsh BESS is documented as intending to use technology supplied by Sungrow Power Supply Co. Ltd, a PRC-based company. This creates clear risks under the National Security and Investment Act 2021, given China's designation as a hostile state actor. The Procurement Act 2023 requires contracting authorities to exclude suppliers where national security cannot be assured.

4. Cybersecurity Non-Compliance

The proposal fails to show compliance with the Network and Information Systems Regulations 2018. No independent certification or due diligence evidence has been provided on Sungrow's operational technology. This absence is a material deficiency for any operator of essential energy services.

5. Environmental Risks

The development sits adjacent to legacy landfill at the former Thorpe Marsh coal site, where the Environment Agency has already raised concerns regarding ground stability and leachate. These matters have not been adequately addressed in the Environmental Impact Assessment.

Conclusion

Taken together, these deficiencies render the application unlawful, irrational, and unsafe. It fails to comply with statutory duties under the Planning Act 2008, the NSIA 2021, the Procurement Act 2023, the NIS Regulations 2018, and relevant environmental legislation.

For these reasons, I strongly urge the Planning Inspectorate to refuse consent for the Fenwick Solar Farm and associated Thorpe Marsh BESS.

Yours faithfully,

Rachel Reed