

I strongly object to this Plan due to severe cumulative impacts from the oversized GNR scheme combined with multiple nearby solar projects, existing industry, gravel extraction, and the A46 bypass. This risks industrialising the Trent Valley, overwhelming Newark & Sherwood, and causing irreversible loss of rural character, tranquillity, and agricultural land.

Severe Cumulative Impact

Scale & Context: GNR + 8 other solar/BESS schemes (some approved, others in process) + British Sugar factory + extending gravel works + A46 bypass.

Consequences:

Loss of traditional rural landscape

Traffic congestion & disruption

Noise, vibration, visual dominance

Degradation of countryside's physical/psychological benefits

Risk to community health

Rural Landscape & Visual Impact

Circular design inflates footprint and visibility.

Screening delayed (years for maturity); requests mature planting + lifelong maintenance plan.

Construction & Maintenance Traffic

Heavy A1 use unavoidable; mini-roundabout at A616/Great North Road inadequate.

No contingency for A1 accidents/roadworks.

Risk of HGVs using village routes (GPS errors);

Ongoing maintenance traffic underestimated; tech upgrades may increase flows.

Flooding & Hydrology

Parts still flood-prone.

Best & Most Versatile (BMV) Land

Strong objection to using high-grade arable land.

Sheep grazing under panels not viable.

Falling crop yields make food security critical; imports increase CO₂.

Ecology & Biodiversity

Insufficient evidence on impacts to barn owls, deer, hen harriers, otters, shrews.

Migration disruption.

Must align with Natural England & 2024 State of Nature report for restoration/enhancement.

Consultation

Confusing process (DCO vs voluntary measures); poor Applicant communication.

BESS Fire Risk

Known fire/explosion risks; full safety assessment necessary.

Health & Well-Being

40-year EMF exposure concerns.

Industrialisation harms mental/physical health of rural residents.

Requests monitoring & mitigation.

True Environmental Impact

Lifecycle emissions (panel production, materials) not adequately assessed.

Large-scale solar injurious to rural landscape, communities, and culture.

The Plan fails on cumulative harm, landscape protection, traffic, ecology, and human health and safety. I strongly suggest that the Application be withdrawn.

From: [christine.abbott](#)
To: [Great North Road Solar](#)
Subject: EN010162 – Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park Request for late Relevant Representation / Formal Objection
Date: 03 November 2025 22:48:21

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Dear Case Team,

Please may I request that my late representation for this Plan be accepted?

I write to strongly object to the above Development Consent Order application by Elements Green.

Unacceptable loss of 2,800 hectares of best and most versatile farmland

The site contains Grade 2 and 3a agricultural land. National Planning Statement EN-1 (2024) para 5.10.14 requires “compelling evidence” that lower-grade land cannot be used. No such evidence has been provided; brownfield sites, rooftops and the 47 GW of consented-but-unbuilt solar capacity remain unused.

Industrialisation of open countryside

A 4-mile ring of 2-metre-high panels, 3-metre substations and 2.4 m deer fencing will replace rolling fields with an unbroken wall of glass and steel, visible from the A1, Caunton, North Muskham, Maplebeck, Egmonton and 27 public rights of way. The applicant’s LVIA under-states night-time light spill from 24/7 security lighting.

Cumulative impact already exceeds local tolerance

Newark & Sherwood already hosts 10,000+ acres of solar NSIPs (One Earth, Cottam, Gate Burton, West Burton). Adding GNR would exceed the district’s entire annual solar deployment target for the East Midlands. It is unjust and distressing for residents.

Inadequate screening & 40-year legacy

64,500 trees will take 15–20 years to screen anything; meanwhile residents face 40 years of glint, glare, reflected heat and unknown health side effects from living next to solar panels. Decommissioning bonds are untested at this scale.

Damage to tourism and rural economy

The Trent Valley is marketed as “Robin Hood Country”. Replacing skylines with solar islands will deter the 4.2 million annual visitors who spend £280 m in Newark & Sherwood.

Better alternatives exist

Rooftop solar on Nottingham’s 38,000 warehouses could deliver 1.2 GW without taking a single acre of food-producing land.

For these reasons I urge the Examining Authority to recommend refusal.

Kind regards

Christine Abbott [REDACTED]