

From: [Jonathan Drew](#)
To: [Great North Road Solar](#)
Subject: [REDACTED] URGENT RESPONSE
Date: 10 December 2025 11:16:24
Attachments: [GNR Solar Park Concerns 10 Dec 25 Planning Inspectorate copy.pdf](#)

[You don't often get email from [REDACTED] Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Dear Planning Inspectorate,

Thank you for your communications with the hearings on 26th and 27th November 25. Please find attached our huge concerns and fears as residents.

If you could please value our human rights as to how this huge project will effect us now and in to the future. We just do not understand the logic of which this has been formed and how this snowball effect has happened. Its millions of solar arrays we are now looking at which wipes out so much local land and our beautiful countryside will become an industrial dumping ground. We are concerned about misinformation as on the local news it was reported thousands of solar arrays, this is not correct its millions across our whole area. How much room is at the grid????

Our farmers need supporting and food security should be protected. All in all it's just so distressing and causing huge mental health issues for our family. Particularly as we will be surrounded. There is no getting away from the arrays.

Thank you for taking time to read about our worries. Wishing you a very happy Christmas.

Kind regards

Sally and Jonathan Drew

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
10.12.25

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: GNR Solar Park PEIR and *proposed* Knapthorpe Grange Ref 22/00975 South Muskham Woods Ref 22/00976

Responses to the meeting EN010162 Thursday 27 November 25

Please find below our feedback on the above and the impact that this is having on our mental health and wellbeing as a family that has lived here for many years!! We are observing solar taking over our area in a huge way. The best way we can describe it is like a "plague". Quite frankly we are worried at the impact on our health, future generations, landscape, wildlife and food production, especially when there are other places that can house solar easily and not make our fields defunct from food production. There are many places to erect solar arrays but only 1 way to secure food production!! With the ongoing threat of war we feel strongly that we need a common sense approach to securing food production and to support farmers and the farming industry. We could be cut off as an island and must be sensible with the harsh reality that constantly faces us.

These arrays are not thousands but **MILLIONS** and for 40 Years which will wipe out a generation of farmers!!! How do we pass skills onto our young farmers if they have not got the land to farm on???? Are we missing something here as this makes no sense at all? You only need to look at the size of industrial warehouses such as Amazon to think how solar arrays can be erected on rooftops with ease and ensure food security!!

Procedural Decision

Consultation



This has been done by way of GNR displaying maps in village halls of affected areas with what we would call "tokenism" answers to our fears, worries and concerns. Leaflets have been posted through to us but in "having our say" this has not been adhered to. For example, looking at site proposals why could a representative not come to us and look at what will surround us, the impact can clearly be seen!!!!

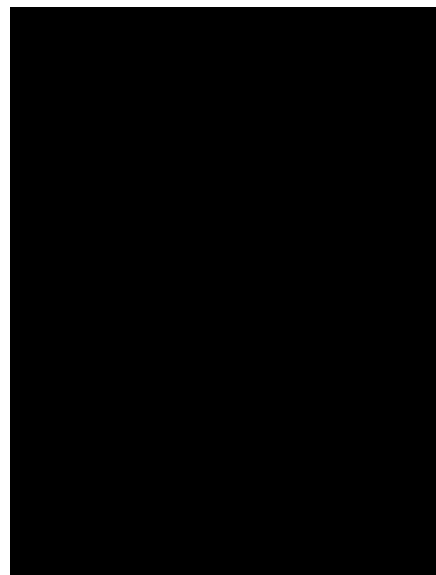
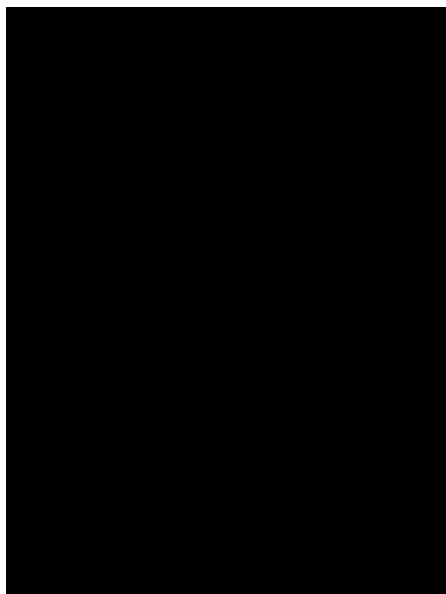
What we felt was that the decision was already made and that this was what was happening to the areas in which we love and live! We are meant to live in a democratic society and we have found it so difficult to become engaged in any of this process. We have submitted worries electronically to GNR and heard nothing back. We have done the same to councillors, MP's and nothing! Concerns have been raised so many times and these have not been addressed to help make residents feel more secure. We ask the inspectorate look at the impact on local residents.

We know that flooding is a huge concern and this needs a real focus along with the impact on resident's mental health. We feel that we need to leave our home that we have renovated and worked so hard on, as being surrounded by solar arrays is affecting our mental health and we did not move to an industrial landscape of which this may now become. All in all it's heart breaking as the wildlife that surrounds us will be greatly impacted. We are guests in their garden and these arrays will cause huge distress on them. For example we have owls that use these fields for food and the arrays will impact their hunting ground.

Environmental Impact Assessment (Cumulative Effects) ACTION

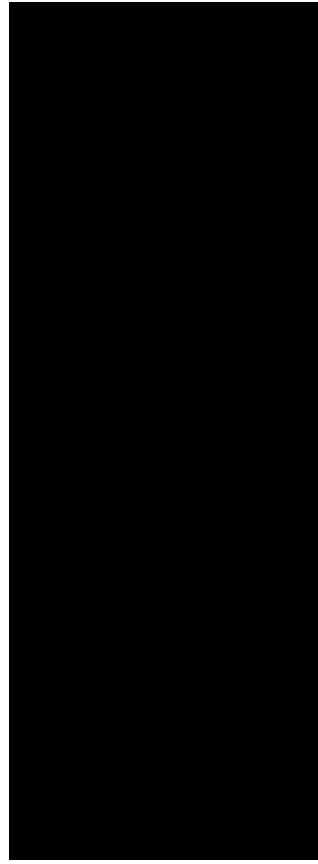
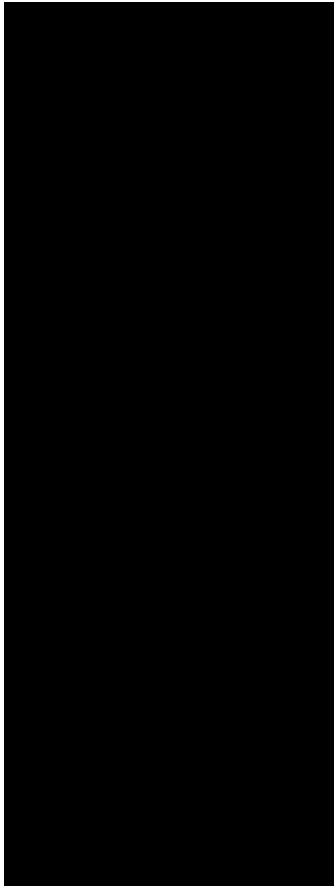
We are writing to object and express our concerns regarding the above planning applications and the **cumulative impact** that the HUGE solar park AND all the other proposed solar sites and already established sites that they collectively will have on our agricultural land supply and our village homes. On maps provided by GNR they show just GNR plans but as you plot further existing and future proposals the **cumulative impact is quite unnerving and quite frankly terrifying**. I would advise that GNR representatives plot ALL solar farms that have been given permission from Jan 26 to show the actual impact that just GNR's 1.5 million panels, as well as others such as **Eakring, Halloughton, Bilsthorpe, Knapthorpe, Muskham** to name a few have all together.

If we take **LINK 6 of GNR map (Please see attached photo 1)** for our own private residence there is GNR solar that is plotted and that wraps around our home and . In the addition of the above proposals by **SSE** that will mean that we would be completely surrounded (**see highlighted proposed other solar farm**). We ask that solar plans be removed from surrounding residential properties in our villages. We have spent the last 15 years living in the countryside, developing our . We love this agricultural community which has helped aid our mental health and which gives us such pleasure. Living in a potentially industrial landscape quite frankly is causing us severe anxiety that we feel trapped and fearful of our future as a family. It was our choice to move to the countryside and this proposal will take away our human rights to peaceful enjoyment of our home. We notice that various changes have been made to all other areas where solar is proposed but not at Knapthorpe. As we look out of our front and rear windows we have rolling countryside, we ask that this be reviewed. It's too close to residential properties.



On the above whereby the solar will surround our residential home the area marked with xxxx's is solar that we will see from our property. We ask for this to be removed in those 3 areas as we feel it's too close to our homes.

We have been informed that the GNR project will mean that there will be no more room at the grid? If this is the case why are there many other proposals being applied for? The cumulative impact needs to plot all these to check what capacity is back at the grid! **RWE Carbon Capture Project** is now being proposed so residents need to understand what this is and how all the solar impacts this too, cumulatively and power back to the grid.



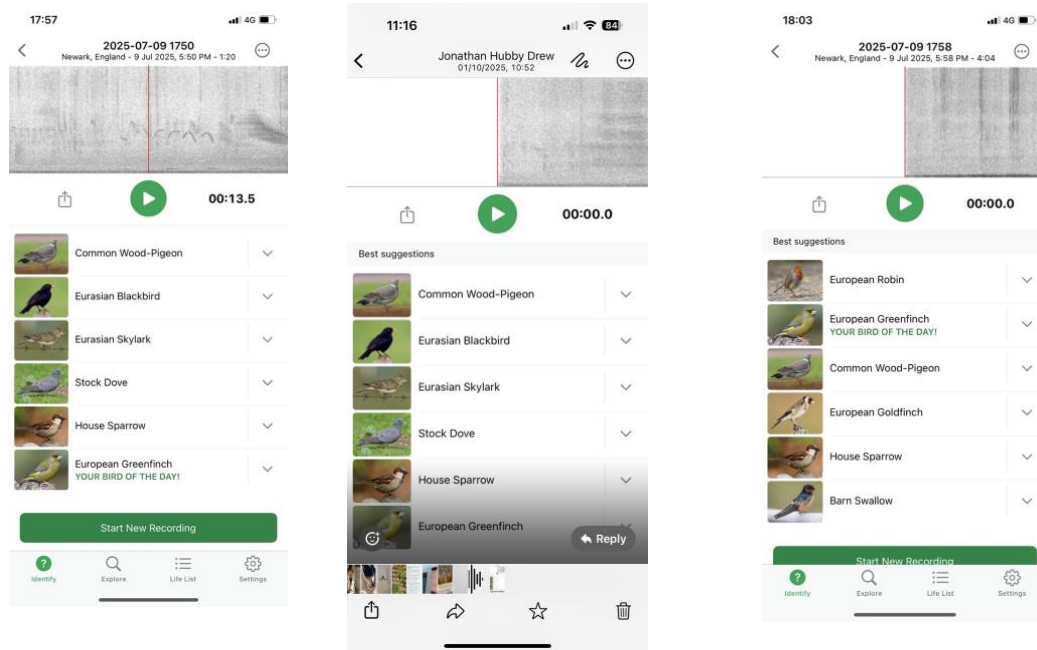
On link 6 of the map for Cauntun Road recent flooding and **(see photos)** we own the front verge in front of our wall where there is a grass verge. It is relatively narrow at this point and is the side of [REDACTED] and our front wall. There is nowhere to create a pull in for heavy goods vehicles, there is not room for 2 larger vehicles to pass safely and the verge is eroding closer and closer to the wall. There has been flooding which has prevented access to vehicles and is dangerous. When Kelham bridge closes due to flooding, the traffic diverts through our road. In needing access through either Hockerton Road or Cauntun Road it would be dangerous due to huge increase in traffic needing to get through. These are the facts of Hockerton through to Cauntun Road and is not accessible for constant have good vehicles.

Flooding is a severe issue and surely this will become worse as fields would not be used for crops that help bind the soil and the solar arrays would just act as a runway for water.

Biodiversity??

MN30 PZ The Knapthorpe Village Farmland with [Ancient Woodlands](#) (A46 Newark Bypass Preliminary Environmental Information)

*Woodland Trust state that "Ancient Woodland" is truly unique as they are the richest and most complex terrestrial woodland in the UK and are home to more threatened species than any other. Centuries of undisturbed soils and accumulated decaying wood have created the perfect place for communities of fungi and invertebrates. Other specialists species of insects, **birds and mammals rely on ancient woodlands.** 1.5 million solar arrays plus the cumulative impact of already established solar will **inhibit wildlife.** The cumulative impact of all solar farms plus GNR solar park will have a detrimental impact on the wildlife that live around the area and need to travel between woodlands to access more food. Having fences surrounding solar does not help wildlife navigate effectively for example deer (See screenshots of 3 red list endangered birds regularly in Knapthorpe). These being Skylarks, Greenfinch, Chaffinch). We have resident owls that feast the fields too so what will be the impact on these beautiful birds.*



The A46 Preliminary Environmental Study stated:

*8.6.25 The Knapthorpe Village and Farmlands with Ancient Woodlands PZ is characterised by a gentle undulating topography set to a mix of intensive arable fields with well managed hedgerow and areas of lower intensity permanent improved pasture. Landscape pattern is coherent and there are a small number of detracting features such as the A616 and A617. Farmland is interspersed with numerous blocks of mixed deciduous woodland along with hedgerows that lead to moderate visibility. **Landscape condition is considered to be “very good”** and the sense of place “moderate”. This leads to a moderate landscape sensitivity overall.*

8.6.26 The landscape analysis concludes the need to “conserve” landscape features. This includes conserving and maintaining historic field patterns (Historic England, Field Systems, Prehistoric origins), hedgerows and blocks of woodland.

It describes how the landscape in the area itself is uninterrupted, solar arrays will interrupt this completely.

How will a huge solar park **impact the landscape** in terms of its beauty and benefit to local residents’ health (mental and physical)? An example of this is that we were asked by the state to [REDACTED]. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Never underestimate the power of the countryside. We live on [REDACTED] which is the connecting B-road from Hockerton to Cauton. It is the only road that directly connects these villages and the proposed solar arrays are all the way along this road. Therefore, they will be a constant view for all residents and totally affect the landscape in which we choose to live.

SSE have a proposed 2 solar farms along the same road Knapthorpe Solar and Muskham Solar. They are across the road, we believe are the same landowners and should be classed as 1 solar farm project not 2. If they were classed as 1 project the

amount of arrays would mean they would need the planning inspectorate to look at this. We feel this is illegal and Newark and Sherwood council agreed this too and refused it. We would ask the planning inspectorate investigate this as the cumulative impact as massive in Knapthorpe and Caunton.

Sheep grazing

The huge amount of solar arrays GNR anticipates (1.5 million) that will be erected on huge sites (0.4 - 4 meters in height) is not in keeping with the countryside by means of sight, sound, touch and the benefits on local communities. It has been suggested that sheep can graze underneath however has this been piloted anywhere as a recent report in Farmers weekly was that a farmer had a small solar farm and they have found it extremely challenging in herding the sheep under solar arrays? That these arrays require gaps and for these to be raised higher to allow sheep to navigate the arrays. In raising these higher this will have an even more detrimental impact on the landscape.

Has GNR got a proven track record of sheep herding under solar, the grass also needs to be of good quality for sheep to feed? We are unsure as to whether this will actually work, let alone go ahead. On all other solar in our area there are no sheep grazing and very little growing beneath these and the arrays actually block the sunlight.

BMV Land Environmental Impact on crops and food production

Knapthorpe “the village” is mentioned in the Domesday book (1086) “Ancient Landholding” and have been cultivating crops on these farmlands for 900 + years.

Acres of arable farmland that produces Oil Rape Seed, Grains, Sugar beet wiped out for 40 plus years. There are many ways to create electricity but only **ONE way to create food.**

There are also much better sites such as housing solar panels on the roofs of housing estates, car parks, factories and commercial buildings (CPRE Campaigns). The possibilities are endless but much more logical and with less an impact on our countryside and the ability to produce food. There is a real economic issue surrounding the huge sugar beet factory at Newark as they need sugar beet from surrounding areas. The planning inspectorate should ask that statistics be based on “local” impact and not a national one. The climate is indeed changing and with this national agricultural farmland may have issues due to the climate, so why would we wipe out other agricultural land. We need to protect this to ensure that food production can continue and farmers are supported to continue their essential work. We are a growing population and wiping out BMV land for 40 years when we live on an island just seems very naive to us.

The power of wind, an endless supply of power not just when the sun shines!!

In the Gov Natural England Guide to Assessing Development Proposals on Agricultural land it clearly states (Feb 2021):

“Local planning authorities should aim to protect”

- *The best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land from significant, inappropriate or unsustainable development proposals*
- ***All soils by managing them in a sustainable way***

Green future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the environment. “Powering up Britain: Energy Security Plan” April 2023.

To use natural resources sustainably and efficiently. “Solar that delivers environmental benefits, consideration for ongoing food production” It plans to:

- *Protect the best agricultural land*
- *Put a value on soils as part of a natural capital*

- *Manage soils in a sustainable way*
- *Restore and protect peatland*

The land has been graded as a proportion that is 3a (very good quality) and a majority of the land is Grade 3b. This land grows oil rape seed, grains and sugar beat. We have timelines within our photo feeds of these crops as we walk these fields regularly.

In the latest Archaeological Evaluation that is stated on the planning application of Ref 22/00975 a total of **245 trenches** have been opened which appears to be very significant as it covers the whole site. These trenches have received an archaeological assessment. As the evaluation reads on it states:

*1.2 “Slightly acid loamy and clayey soils permeable, seasonally wet, slightly acid but base **rich and loamy and clayey soils**”*

On definition rich loamy and clayey soils means the soil is **very fertile compared to other types of soil**. With the soil being very fertile then this soil should be protected and therefore development not prohibited (*Planning and solar farms, July 23*)

1.1 Town and county planning (Development Management Procedure (England Order)

For example, this includes the likely cumulative loss of BMV land from the proposed development. (DMPO) 2015

Once the agricultural land stops being cultivated and left unused for years it then takes on another form whereby it would take great expense and time to get that soil back to being used for agricultural land. Therefore, highly unlikely to return to food production.

1. Film

2. Image

3. Image



(Double click as 1 is a short video as this shows some of the fields that will be wiped out. Just near our home.

With the ongoing threat of war, the fact we are an island, we need to ensure that we can provide food for our country and land should be protected as such.

National Planning Policy Framework needs a local level view

- *Protect and enhance landscapes, biodiversity, geology and soils*
- *Recognise soils as a natural capital asset that provide important ecosystem services*
- *Consider the economic and other benefits of the BMV agricultural land, use poorer quality land*
- *Prevent soil, air, water, or **noise pollution**, or land instability from new and existing development*

Consultation

As residents we feel that the GNR project is being discussed as though its already got the go ahead and this has been the impression from the start even with the initial consultation. The localism act clearly outlines that councillors should assist with aiding discussions. We have not heard from or been aided by local councillors let alone open up a democratic debate, rather a pushing through approach whereby people feel that they are not being heard, listened to. Rather that they should roll over and accept this ruthless plan to create an industrial landscape, that not only reduces food production but will have a bigger impact on flooding and will affect people's mental health in the long run.

The Localism Act 2011 makes it clear that is proper for councillors to play an **"active"** part in local discussions, and that they should not be liable to legal challenge as a result. This will help them better represent their constituents and **enrich local democratic debate**. There are already a large number of solar farms that wrap round our local communities that are potentially being given the green light and there has been little or no consultation, let alone a local democratic debate. The Localism Act is meant to enable our councillors to **act on issues we care about**. We "the people" have never been asked as a community, this has been done on an individual basis by means of drop in sessions. GNR rather just notify us, no discussion, no debate, no democracy!

New rights and powers for communities p8 of Localism Act

*Government alone does not make a great place to live, **people do**. People who look out for their neighbours, who take pride in their area.*

The Localism Act we feel needs further consideration.

On Newark and Sherwood Council's statement on planning applications there are 6 considerations stated:

- **road safety**
- **effect on character of the area**
- **effect on the landscape**

are all what we are concerned about and need an open forum in which to discuss such concerns. This is why we live in a **democratic state**. Millions of solar arrays are clearly going to cause a negative impact on all the above. There must be opportunity for residents to be spoken to as a community group and not in isolation through drop in sessions.

Knapthorpe, Caunton, Muskham are those areas that we feel as residents, very connected to. The villages themselves and the countryside that surrounds us and that this has evolved over 100's if not 1,000's of years. That countryside provides our residents with a place to walk, take in nature and footpaths that connect us to the locals. They are places that have a soul and that soul is embedded in our everyday lives through our choice of living in the countryside. The ancient woodlands that have grown over thousands of years, the wildlife that reside in those woodlands and the connections between those. Huge solar farm fences create barriers for wildlife to move freely. We (the residents) see the deer jumping freely over the crops and the seasonal changes that help with having these spaces. They have a huge impact in helping with our mental health, even more so important after the impact of Covid. You appreciate this so much more and so we need to have our say and be involved with developments in our communities.

Knapthorpe Solar and GNR solar distances

Proximity of the proposed solar farm to homes



Whilst the developer will state that there is no proof that solar farms and equipment will cause problems to health there is no proof it will not. It's a relatively new option in green energy and the impact will not be understood for years. The general consensus is arrays should ideally be 500m to a 1 mile from residential properties. This would not be stated if there were no risk to residents.

Electromagnetic fields in low levels suggests it should be safe. However, what is the impact on large solar farms and on having a combined energy sources in close proximity, so wind farm, electricity pylons and solar farms. All of which are located in Knapthorpe and Muskham. Also, the size of the farm and proximity to other power sources has potential issues in **harmonic distortions** which for example, can cause electrical equipment to overheat. They can also cause interference with communication systems and reduce efficiency of electrical equipment. Further investigations should be sought as this could have a significant impact on the area environmentally, socially and economically. For example, our current phone signal and Wifi are weak. Issues with fire and how easily this can spread.

There is also the issue of morals with regards to where these solar arrays will come from. For example if it's China then this poses a number of issues and therefore, needs due consideration. Producing 1.5 million solar arrays for GNR over in China and shipping these to the UK creates CO2 omissions so it merely looks like we are offsetting one with the other. There are concerns for how these are being made e.g. child labour and ultimately with disposing of these arrays as they have a 15 - 20 year lifespan. This in itself is not "Green" and offers more issues in the future. Now we may think that this is not our issue and yes in 40 years it will not be **our issue** but it will be a problem for our children and their children. How is this fixing the CO2 issue? How will they be disposed of and is it worth it for something that works 40% of the time. We are not a country or area of the UK that benefits from sunny days and in 2023 the UK had an average of 4.3 hours a day of sunshine! (*Statista 2025, Energy & Environment, Climate and Weather*)

Decommissioning

Millions of solar arrays to be disposed of is our problem now as we must have a clearly defined policy for any companies when it comes to decommissioning these. This must be done in a safe and "green" way. We have not got the capability to recycle the elements of solar arrays at this time. What also concerns us is who will be responsible for the big clean up?

What we already know is that companies change hands all the time and are sold off. If this is the case then who will be responsible for the decommissioning if the company no longer exists?? Will this be the landowner?? What if the landowner cannot afford the big clean up? This will mean defunct arrays are left degrading into the soil and as no-one takes responsibility for the decommissioning. **This in itself is not biodiverse but a huge problem for our climate.**

Decommissioning has not been a focus as in 40 years no one that is involved will be around. This is a very narrow minded viewpoint as this will be our children's problem. How responsible is that?

Cultural Heritage:

"Designated heritage assets which are afforded statutory protection, such as scheduled monuments, Listed Buildings, Registered Battlefields".

In our area:

Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act, 1979

7.2.3 This act relates to the investigation, preservation and recording of matters of archaeological and historical interest. The scheme could have potential effects on scheduled monuments and important archaeological deposits. In the latest archaeological report there have been “deposits”: found that appeared to be pottery shards dating to Romano-British period (predicted AD 43). Surely this area should be considered as a potential site for archaeological digs and therefore, requiring access if needed.

The site is near to Earshaw Hall Moat (1008628)
Moated site, fishponds and decoy pond (1018120)
Newbottles plantation, walking area.

The Habitats Regulations 2017

To protect European Protected Species (EPS) Protect habitats that are valuable to them. Deer (Protected under the Deer Act 1991) have been seen on numerous occasions running across the proposed sites, likely to be accessing cover to the ancient Woodland. Having a solar farm with high fences will likely cause injury or death, in needing to negotiate round such fencing or even being pushed on to the roads.

Skylarks habitat, they need to see any prey that maybe approaching. Solar causes huge issues for them.

Leisler's bats (Countryside Act, 1981), they leave shortly before sunset (glint and glare is greater at this time), return shortly before sunrise (again glint and glare is greater at this time) Lesser spotted woodpeckers and their affect with solar noise/glint and glare near to the ancient woodlands.

All in all we recognise that solar energy has a part to play in supplying renewable energy **where appropriate**. The main question is, whether this is appropriate. When there are far better options as to where to place solar panels, far better options with regards to off shore wind power, roof top solar, hydrogen, tidal. The road map for solar in the April 2023 Powering up Britain report that the Governments key priority is roof top solar and that there **is no national government requirement or target for ground mounted solar on farmland**. This would suggest there are far better options available.

That a secure green future must be built on good long-term decisions, not driven by poor short term commercial gain. We are all intelligent beings so what we cannot understand is why this push to ruin our farmers. We should never bite the hand that feeds us and if farmers have grown tired of farming they should sell to other famers that would love the opportunity to secure more land!!

The overall concern is the ongoing threat of war. Unfortunately, this is a sad but a real threat. As we are an island we need access to land to grow crops. We cannot rely on imports and need to access land and to help feed our ever growing population. Wiping **any** arable farmland can only be catastrophic.

Stop the plague on our plains!

Yours sincerely

Sally and Jonathan Drew