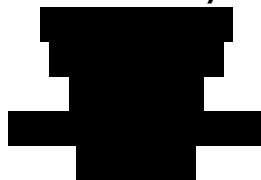


Martin Kelly



6th November 2025

The Planning Inspectorate
National Infrastructure Planning
Temple Quay House
2 The Square, Temple Quay
Bristol BS1 6PN

By email: greenhill@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Application reference: EN010170

Applicant: Green Hill Solar Farm Limited

Project: Green Hill Solar Farm Project

Subject: Letter of Objection – Rule 8 Letter (Examination Timetable and Procedure)

Dear Examining Authority.

I am writing to register my **formal objection** to the application by *Green Hill Solar Farm Limited* for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to construct the Green Hill Solar Farm in Northamptonshire. I also wish to comment in response to the *Rule 8 Letter* concerning the examination timetable and procedure.

While I fully support the UK's transition to renewable energy, this particular proposal is **disproportionate in scale, inappropriately located**, and forms part of a **wider pattern of cumulative industrialisation of the Northamptonshire countryside** through numerous overlapping solar and wind applications.

Impact on Landscape and Character

The proposal would fundamentally alter the open rural character of the area surrounding Wellingborough and nearby parishes. Expansive arrays of panels, fencing, and substations will dominate views from public rights of way, heritage assets, and local villages. The development is inconsistent with the scale and setting of the Northamptonshire landscape, particularly given the rolling agricultural character and historic hedgerow pattern of this part of the county.

Loss of Productive Farmland

The proposed site encompasses significant areas of **best and most versatile agricultural land** currently in productive use. Converting this to an industrial-scale solar array undermines food security and directly conflicts with planning policy encouraging the protection of such land. Given the number of alternative brownfield and less sensitive sites available across the region, this loss is unjustified.

Cumulative Pressure of Energy Developments

Northamptonshire is now **flooded with renewable energy proposals**, including multiple large-scale solar farms and battery energy storage systems. The cumulative impact of these developments — in terms of visual intrusion, habitat fragmentation, and strain on rural infrastructure — has not been adequately assessed in the Environmental Statement for Green Hill. The county risks becoming a patchwork of fenced-off energy sites rather than a balanced, multi-use rural landscape.

Ecology and Biodiversity Concerns

The proposed development area includes valuable hedgerows, nesting sites, and foraging habitats that contribute to local biodiversity. While the applicant claims biodiversity net gain, the documentation lacks credible long-term management commitments and independent monitoring. I urge the Examining Authority to require binding biodiversity conditions and post-construction monitoring if the project proceeds.

Inadequate Community Consultation

Local residents have repeatedly expressed frustration that consultation has been limited, with little meaningful opportunity to influence the design or scale of the scheme. Many feel that engagement has been tokenistic, with significant information shared only after key decisions were made. A project of this magnitude demands far stronger local consultation and accountability.

Construction Impacts and Rural Roads

The local road network — particularly narrow rural lanes — is not designed to accommodate the heavy construction traffic anticipated for such a large-scale project. Detailed Construction Traffic Management Plans must be secured as DCO requirements, with specific measures to protect residential amenity and road safety.

Request to the Examining Authority

In light of the above, I respectfully request that the Examining Authority:

- Requires a **comprehensive cumulative impact assessment** including all solar and wind proposals in Northamptonshire.
- Gives full weight to the loss of high-quality agricultural land.
- Ensures that any biodiversity and landscape mitigations are **enforceable through DCO requirements**.
- Gives due consideration to the **strength of local opposition** and the disproportionate burden Northamptonshire communities are already bearing from energy infrastructure.

Unless these issues can be fully resolved, I urge the Examining Authority to **refuse development consent** for the Green Hill Solar Farm Project.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my representation. Please keep me informed of all future deadlines, hearings, and examination updates.

Yours faithfully,

Martin Kelly

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Martin Kelly.