

As a resident of Wellingborough and Earls Barton for ■■■ years and being the owner of a small amount of farmland within the Nene Valley, 3.9 miles from the proposed Battery Storage facility, I wish to express my total opposition to the proposed Green Hill Solar Farm .

While I support the use and development of renewable energy sources, the scale, location and nature of the development are fundamentally at odds with both environmental and community interests. I list below my reasons :

1. Loss of high grade agricultural land

Over two thirds of the 3,000 acre site consist of Best and Most Versatile farmland (grades 1-3A). The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and other government policies emphasize the importance of protecting BMV land from development. Local Planning Authorities (LPA's) must consider the potential impact on BMV land when evaluating development proposals. Why should the Secretary of State for Energy, Security and Net Zero be any different? Replacing productive agricultural land with solar infrastructure undermines the UK's long term food security.

2. Size and impact

The proposed development is comparable in size to Heathrow Airport and would surround picturesque villages such as Easton Maudit and Mears Ashby. The development will cause lasting harm to the areas rural identity, and its construction will destroy what poorly maintained roads we have left.

Wildlife will be displaced and natural habitats destroyed.

3. Health and Safety

The battery energy storage system (BESS) is planned for installation near flood prone land and will represent a serious fire and pollution hazard. The dangers of the sheer size of the project cannot be under estimated. If approved, will local response services be enlarged and receive additional specialist training ?

4. Construction traffic and infrastructure strain

A 2 year construction phase will introduce high volumes of HGV's, and abnormal loads through narrow rural lanes. Having reviewed the transport plans, there is at present no way the abnormal loads of batteries relating to the BESS can be delivered on the roads currently in situ. Construction will also fragment existing animal habitats, making it harder for them to find food or mates. The proposed route for the delivery of the battery units is not feasible due the narrow bridge and the tight S bends. I can only presume the developers have not bothered to make a site visit, as if they had, this would have become apparent.

5. Benefit

The proposed development will only benefit the shareholders of Macquarie Asset Management Ltd in the form of revenue streams or disposal of the asset, and the landowners who will provide the land for the solar panel location and the BESS. This development will NOT result in lower energy prices in either the local area or nationally.

6. Decommissioning and restoration provisions

There are no enforceable guarantees that the land will be returned to agricultural use after the projects lifespan. The land would be designated as a brown field state open to industrial or commercial development

7. Other valid concerns are:-

- Danger from solar panel glare and artificial lighting
  - Decline in property values and loss of appeal to local and national visitors
  - The effect on public access to footpaths and bridleways
  - The cost and disruption in removing old and low efficiency solar panels
  - The panels have a life of around 25 years and their disposal can be problematic as not all components are easily recyclable
  - Solar panel are a relative inefficient means of creating energy, being only effective when exposed to direct sunlight. Cloudy days will see a massive reduction in energy production
  - The manufacture of solar panels involves processes that have environmental consequences including the use of certain dangerous materials and a large amount of energy consumption during manufacture.
- . The impact of the long underground cable routes on yet more farm land and the effect on wildlife corridors and habitat must not be underestimated.

This Labour government's the drive to net zero according to them, will not involve any financial sacrifices and have minimal impact on people's lives. This scheme has as much credibility as there 2024 Manifesto.

I am totally committed to oppose this scheme and to see the plans directed to the waste paper bin!