

Green spaces, mental health, Public Rights of Way and Economic Impacts

Potential impacts of Greenhill Solar Development

1. Introduction

1.1 The overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) includes, within the Assessment Principles (Section 4), the importance of attending to both the potential benefits and potential adverse impacts of any development application. This includes the effect on “human health and public safety” (4.1.7), not only in the event of scheme development but also as a consequence of any mitigation.

1.2 The primary source of information relating to the applicant’s review of these issues is in GH6.2.18. This provides a comprehensive review of potential impacts of the Greenhill solar scheme on human health, addressing construction, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning. The document contains a wide range of statistical materials and includes models of determinants of health and well-being.

1.3 It should, at the outset, be pointed out, that GH6.2.18 acknowledges that the causal link between health effects and wider societal and environmental circumstances is hard to establish. Understandably, therefore, the author relies on significant amounts of “professional judgement” (e.g. 18.4.21). However, challengers are entitled to question whose judgement is being invoked.

1.4 Table 18.6 sets out the definitions to be applied when applying criteria of sensitivity. Relevant to the present application – given the rural and dispersed nature of the locations concerned, are those criteria relating to community concerns. Thus, High Sensitivity includes “a community whose outlook is predominantly anxiety or concern”. Medium Sensitivity covers “a community whose outlook is predominantly uncertainty with some concern”. Low is indicated by “a community whose outlook is predominantly ambivalence with some concern”, whilst Very Low is defined by “a community whose outlook is predominantly support with some concern”.

1.5 In order to apply the criteria, document GH6.2.18 utilises a range of high-level datasets including life expectancy, suicide rates, emergency hospital admissions, disability rates, and such like. The consideration of “vulnerable groups” is used as a proxy for the “sensitivity of the population as a whole and identify what impacts the scheme may have on health inequalities”. Overall, however, these statistics are not useful at the local level and can reasonably be disregarded for the purposes of the analysis. Indeed, when directly considering the local communities concerned, the document states that “the sensitivity of the villages and immediate surroundings to

Mears Ashby, Earls Barton, Grendon, Easton Maudit, and Bozeat are likely to be of greatest sensitivity. This is due to their proximity to the Scheme, and the perception of changes to their landscape setting and visual identity” (18.6.45).

This paragraph (18.6.45) therefore, not only serves to negate the value of the population level data but entirely omits the villages and immediate surroundings of Holcot and Walgrave for reasons that are **not explained**. Indeed, those villages are barely referenced even though the submitted comments (in the case of Holcot) were responded to (Table 18.1). The village of Walgrave appears to have been ignored in the document analysis.

1.6 The following table, compiled from a document search of GH6.2.18 is significant as an indication of the failure to consider two of the impacted villages:

Village	References in GH6.2.18
Lavendon	7
Bozeat	9
Easton Maudit	8
Grendon	14
Earls Barton	21
Mears Ashby	18
Walgrave	2
Holcot	2

1.7 In addition to the question of sensitivity criteria for receptors set out in 18.6, Table 18.7 must also be considered. This concerns the sensitivity to the “magnitude of change”. Included in these criteria is the proportion of the population affected. In effect, therefore, the proposals aim to estimate the responses of residents living in the identified localities.

It should, lastly, be observed that no authority, academic, professional or otherwise, is quoted for the inclusion of these various criteria. Hence the compiling of answers to complete the analysis is speculative.

2. Summary of sensitivity provided by Greenhill

2.1 Table 18.13 in Chapter 18 (GH6.2.18) summarises the Residual Effects for Human Health. Remarkably, this proposes that there are only medium or low impacts on Human Health with the exception of Noise and Vibration which would have high impacts for proximal residents, albeit that these would be reduced by “embedded offsets”.

These judgements demonstrate a coalescence around lower range impacts that might be referred to as an example of a “regression to the mean”, rather than a careful discrimination between differing elements within the analysis.

2.2 In contrast, the document points elsewhere to issues of community and their identity and culture (within the 2km ZoI) where overall significances of “no less than medium” should be considered as a starting point (18.6.46). If “no less than medium” is a genuine starting point, then it would be expected that ratings would be more broadly distributed.

2.3 It should be noted that there are inconsistent applications to some ratings. Thus, Table 18.13 identifies that there could be “medium” changes to quality of life for construction contractors until such time as they have “lowest-impact locations” for accommodation. On the other hand, investment in local recruitment from within the Wider Baseline Study Area will be beneficial for employment. This disparity suggests that there is no clarity on where employees will come from.

2.4 Lastly, in respect of the analysis, the document presents models of the inter-relationships between individual health and wider determinants (18.4.3 and 18.4.4). These identify a wide range of factors “all of which are characterised by their interdependency in how they contribute to health [sic] living”. Interesting as these models are, the document makes no effort to utilise them as causal elements in the subsequent ratings, nor to assign any weighting to them.

3. Health and Receptor responses.

3.1 To address some of the anomalies in GH6.2.18 a consideration of three issues is now offered: These are

- Loss and reduction of Public Rights of Way
- Community Perceptions and responses to solar development
- Community involvement and community identity and culture

These issues will be considered next by examples which challenge the statements in GH6.2.18.

3.2 Public Rights of Way will be restricted, moved, or at least for periods of time, completely blocked by development proposals. 18.6.41 refers to the ES Appendix 17.1 as identifying “a total of 70 PRowS and permissive recreational routes”. Of these there are five which are cited as “inter-settlement infrastructure”. Oddly excluded from that list is the footpath from Grendon to Castle Ashby. It is understood (APP/GH2.6 TP182) that this footpath will be closed for access for construction traffic

to construction compound 2 and cable laying (presumably for a 2-year construction period). A photograph of where this interrupts the footpath is appended (Appendix 1a).

3.3 The second example footpath is near Easton Maudit and listed as TP206 This borders a field to be assigned to solar panelling, and which will have fencing and hedging at the nearer edge resulting in a loss of view and a sense of enclosure. A photograph of this is appended (Appendix 1b).

3.4 These two footpaths are helpful as illustrations of loss. Both are regularly used by local residents, by the Waendel walks, and - in the former case - for those wanting to use shops and other facilities at Castle Ashby.

3.5 The experience of loss is extensively catalogued in the literature of health and mental health as a cause of anger, anxiety, depression and concomitant physical illness. This is not intended to suggest that the proposals will result in a high incidence of serious mental illness, but to make the point that there is an established link between environmental circumstances and internal responses.

3.6 Many members of each affected local community have reported their responses to the prospects of the loss of access and views, most poignantly the evidence provided in Appendix 2. It should be noted as well that footpaths that will be enclosed on both sides not only mean lost views of the landscape but also the imposition of inescapable corridors, deterring lone walkers from their use.

3.7 The replication of these experiences of loss and restriction will impact the communities affected by these proposals, diminishing the positive views of residents towards their home surroundings and sense of identity.

3.8 For these reasons a rating of “**high**” should be accorded to these effects.

3.9 Community perceptions and responses to solar development are the second area of illustration, and Appendix 3 to this document contains invaluable information from the village of Walgrave – regrettably missed entirely in document GH6.2.18.

3.10 Appendix 3 offers a survey undertaken in the village of Walgrave and has important observations about the relationship between the knowledge of the scheme and responses to the scheme. Informal local knowledge from other villages validates and effectively replicates the responses within the Walgrave survey.

- 3.11** Community involvement, identity and culture is the third chosen illustrative example. As a much more broadly based example, the evidence of impacts on the villages in the area reflects the ways in which communities are damaged by developments.
- 3.12** Construction noise and traffic are both relevant in this area, and although this is recognised as a temporary effect the magnitude is nevertheless **high**. Evidence from construction at other locations can be provided which shows that the noise levels for those in proximity to developments would be extremely disturbing. GH6.2.18 paragraph 18.8.15 and 16 are challenged in this regard. It should also be noted that GH6.2.18 does not define proximity but merely resorts to “immediate” or “reasonable” in its terminology. The term should be more specifically defined so that real measurements could be cited.
- 3.13** No definition of the term “culture” is provided in GH6.2.18 even though the term itself is used throughout. The notion of “belonging” has long been an associated definition and is relevant to this analysis. Each village impacted by the scheme has not only a sense of identity but is characterised by residents who have occupied their homes for long periods of time. There is, however, evidence that the numbers of houses for sale, with residents seeking to move away from the area, has increased and a fall in house prices – at least prospectively - has been independently confirmed.
- 3.14** It would be easy to dismiss any relationship between these points and the loss of a sense of community ensuing upon development of the scheme. Its reality would be evident in the decline of a variety of “soft” measures – community engagement and relationship networks, as well as economic indicators such as house vacancies and reduced values.

4. Conclusions

- 4.1** Comments for Walgrave are relevant. If the analysis is not to be done comprehensively then the application of sensitivities will be inaccurate.
- 4.2** The closing of PROW and its effects have not been effectively measured and hence should be re-rated;
- 4.3** The impact on expectations and hence on health and cognitive effects should be reconsidered.

4.4 The impact on economic values, and combined effects on community belonging and identity should be fully accounted.

Appendix 1a. TP182 scheduled for closure during construction



Appendix 1b

TP206/TD5 scheduled for arrays



Appendix 2: Sample impact statement.

The Importance of Grendon's Countryside to Me

As a Headteacher of a busy secondary school, I carry the weight of responsibility for hundreds of young minds and the dedicated staff who shape their futures. The pressures of educational leadership, the constant demands, difficult decisions, and emotional investment in every child's wellbeing, can be overwhelming. In this role, where mental health and wellbeing are not just professional priorities but personal necessities, I have found my sanctuary in the beautiful countryside surrounding Grendon and Easton Maudit.

Each day after school and at weekends, I try to walk these cherished fields with my faithful dog, finding solace in the rhythms of rural life that have remained unchanged for generations. These walks are not mere recreation, they are essential medicine for my soul and mind, providing the work-life balance that enables me to return each morning refreshed and capable of serving my school community effectively.

The glory of these fields transforms with every season, painting an ever-changing masterpiece across the landscape. In spring, the vivid emerald of new grass mingles with golden rapeseed and the delicate pastels of wildflowers. Summer brings deep, rich greens punctuated by the warm gold of ripening wheat swaying in gentle breezes. Autumn sets the countryside ablaze with amber, russet, and bronze, while winter offers its own stark beauty: the frost-kissed fields stretching toward distant horizons under pale, silver skies. As Wordsworth wrote, "In every walk with nature, one receives far more than they seek" and in these fields, I find this profound truth realised with each visit.

I am blessed with various walking routes that weave through this beautiful, landscaped tapestry, each offering its own perspective and peace. Some paths lead through ancient hedgerows where history whispers in the wind, others across open meadows where kites rise majestically across the endless sky. The fresh air fills my lungs, clears my mind, and restores my spirit, allowing me to process the challenges of my profession while reconnecting with something fundamental and grounding.

The prospect of these beloved fields being consumed by industrial solar panels for miles around fills me with **profound sadness and dread**. While I wholeheartedly support our environmental responsibilities and the need for renewable energy, the scale of this proposed development threatens to obliterate the very landscape that sustains not only my own wellbeing but that of countless others who seek respite in nature's embrace. The gentle, rolling fields that have defined this area's identity for centuries will be replaced by

regimented rows of technology, transforming a living, breathing landscape into something mechanical, barren and sterile.

I do not oppose progress or our collective environmental duty, but I implore those making these decisions to consider the human cost of such extensive development. Surely, we can fulfil our obligation to renewable energy while preserving some of the precious countryside that provides such vital respite for those of us who serve our communities in demanding roles. Could not the scale be reduced, or could not more suitable locations, perhaps former industrial sites or areas already compromised, be considered instead?

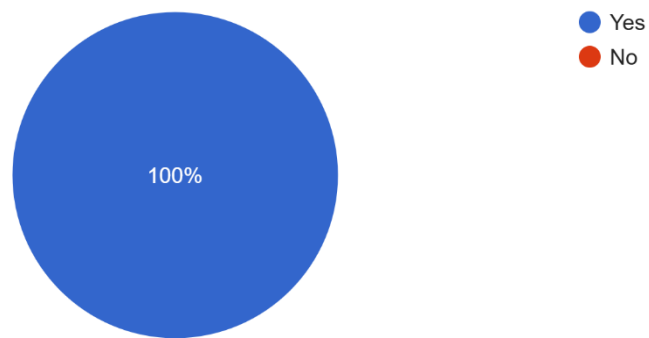
The countryside around Grendon is more than just empty space waiting for development: it is my sanctuary, a source of mental and spiritual restoration, and a living heritage that, once lost, cannot be recovered.

Appendix 3:

GSHF Questionnaire Responses (as at 29/9/25).

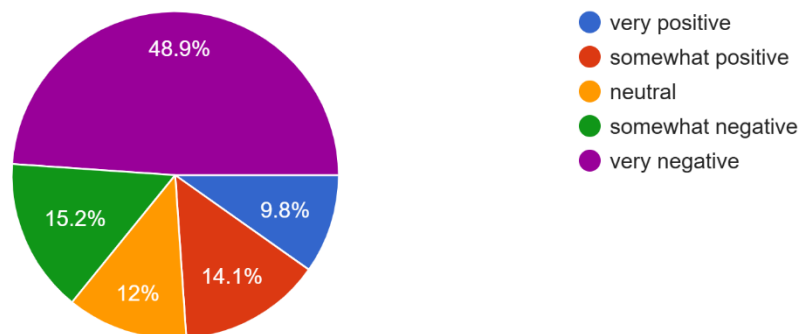
Before this survey, were you aware of the Green Hill Solar Farm proposal?

92 responses



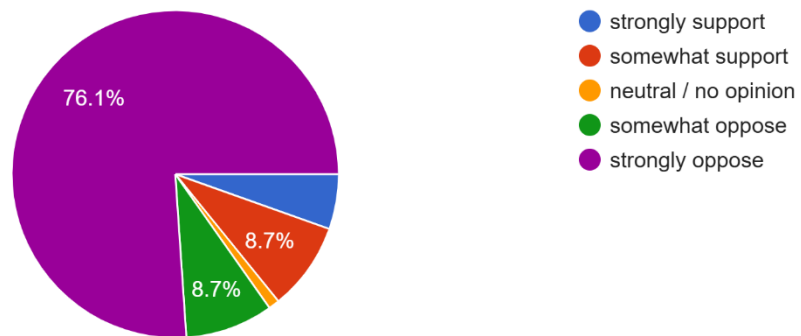
How would you describe your overall impression of Solar Farms in general?

92 responses

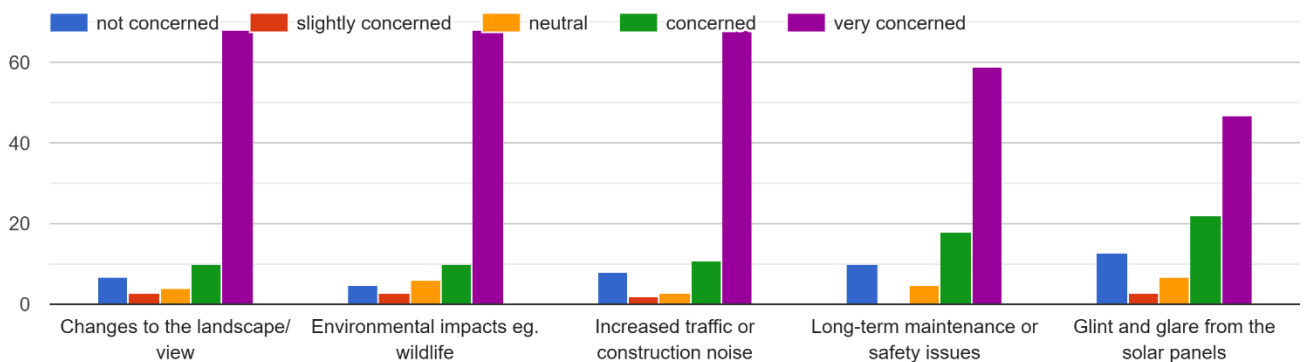


How supportive are you of a Solar Farm being built near to Walgrave?

92 responses

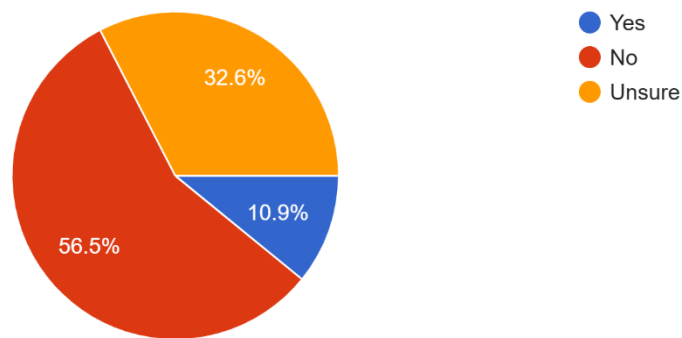


How concerned are you about the following potential effects of the project?



Do you feel your voice is being heard regarding this project?

92 responses



Comments: *(NB from Clerk: I did not input all comments from the paper forms due to repetition)*

There is so much impact on our British wildlife from housing to traffic to solar panels. There is a better solution and place them on high rise carparks and buildings, not countryside. The village and surrounding areas are a thing of beauty and we need to protect this and protect the wildlife and there homes

Solar panels should be installed on roof tops, barns, warehouses not prime agricultural land

We feel that solar panels would be better suited to roofs, warehouses and new housing development rather than farm land which is surely essential in todays world

We are not opposed to Solar but we are opposed to it being on prime agricultural land for the reasons stated above and it is using land that is better used for farming We are concerned about an increase in accidents/fatalities on the A43 already a dangerous road not only due to construction issues but due to animals going on the road as they are driven out of their normal habitat and well worn routes. The people at previous meeting making decisions about the road don't know how dangerous it is and we don't feel there has been enough consideration and thought put into it. Another concern is environmental when the solar panels come to the end of their life. A major concern for us living directly next door to the proposal is the noise once they are fitted,

The scale and size of the project and impact of traffic

This is going to destroy a cast area of farmland across Northants, spoil the countryside and surely there are other alternatives providing energy (solar panels over car parks for example)

Those who have not taken great interest in this will not be fully aware of the height of the proposed panels and the impact they will have on both the visual and physical environment nor the extent of the agriculturally productive acreage being covered by the panels. The proposal is not for a solar farm that most people would visualise which might cover a few acres and be of a height that is easily disguised by normal hedging etc. There have been several requests for a visualisation to be produced so that the true impact of this proposal can be seen to no avail. With AI and modern digital technology this should be easy for Green Hill Solar to produce, yet they haven't - why? There is also a concern over the noise that will emanate from the site especially if the panels traverse to follow the sun. Again information has been requested from Green Hill Solar to confirm the likely noise levels and the nature of the noise but nothing has been provided. This ignores two years of disruption and noise during construction should this project be approved. There is a video which shows the difference between an LPA construction and the one we are faced with namely an NSIP application - it is clear there is no comparison: (<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/19n618pDaw/?mibextid=wwXlfr>) This difference needs emphasising so people understand what is actually being proposed so they can make an informed decision and that, I believe, is the role of the Parish Council - especially where proposals of major impact to the village are being made. In that respect this survey has no value if the village is unaware of the full impact of the proposal especially as it doesn't offer links to the current proposals and to the discussions that have already occurred. The ability to use the country side for peace and recreation and to enjoy the tranquility of such an area will be curtailed by the ugliness and sheer size of the solar power plant (it is not a farm!) This is all before any debate is undertaken as to the true value of solar power energy such as when power is needed ie cold wet and overcast days compared to when it is not needed ie hot sunny days when the panels are at there most efficient. The economic benefit seems to be

only for its owners who get paid even whether they produce usable energy or not. Also bear in mind that the owners of Green Hill Solar are the very people who have created such major issues with Thames Water due to their profiteering attitude. There has to be a real concern that this is simply seen only as a money making exercise with the associated concerns that their longer term interest and investment will be limited.

Solar farms are needed, but not built over prime agriculture land. The amount of third parties involved now and in the future is a major concern. Who will be held accountable if there's issues for example ensuring the landscape is maintained to decrease visual impact. The increased volume of traffic especially lorries is a huge concern for vulnerable road users. We have a very active community of horse riders, walkers and cyclists. There are so many other viable places to host solar panels and not turn these vital areas into industrial landscapes. There is zero benefit to the village. As a minimum we should receive 50% off our energy bills for the lifespan of the solar farm. What the company has currently listed as benefits is insulting. This is another prime example of government making a panicked decision to meet targets, without any consideration for future generations who will have to clear this mess up. As I understand the materials are not recyclable. In the meantime put them on roofs, cover car parks, look at the innovation other countries are doing. This land has been designated because it'll be near the main battery. This land wasn't sourced because of its suitability as advised by a staff member at the community meeting. This is 100% profits over anything else.

Whilst I understand the need for alternative clean energy I think that any locations close to housing is inappropriate of more industrial sites should be found. Which would not be better used for agriculture

Solar farms should not be built on farmland that is used for crops. Suspect after 60 years they will not be returning land to its original stated

Turning farmland into industrial use. They will be covering it with glass metal wiring cables and fencing. Heavy vehicles during and after construction. Affect on wildlife , particularly birds. The scale of it is too large for this area. A one field solar farm would be more acceptable. The long term legacy once it is of no use.

Is question 3 on the hardcopy feedback survey included on this e-version or are the questions adjusted due to my previous responses? Apologies if I have missed Q3 here....overall, I oppose solar parks on greenfield sites and believe they should be added to commercial and warehouse roofing structures at time of construction (and retrospectively) of which there are many in the county. There is nothing "temporary" about them! Thanks for taking the time to send out the survey, much appreciated.

I'm concerned with the environment impacts on wildlife and the countryside being changed irreparably. I also question the effectiveness of solar power when we don't have a great deal of sunlight for 6 months plus of the year

1- Noise and disruption -The substation (the noisiest part of a solar farm) at site A of the development, is in close proximity to Walgrave village, and in turn to my home. I'm not sure why the substations are located as close as possible to the village, and not located as far away from the village as possible. 2 - Loss of agricultural land - the fields being used for this solar farm are agricultural lands, used to grow crops. I believe that in the current political climate, food security is of utmost importance and I am concerned about losing this land to a solar farm of this scale. There are ample brown fields and non agricultural land that can be used to develop these solar farms, so utilising important land that is needed for crop growing seems unnecessary. 3 - Impact on wildlife - these sites are crucial habitats for many species and cover sites of special scientific interest. In particular the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits which is a protected area attracting over 20,000 water birds, vital populations of Golden Plover, Gladwell and Bittern. I am heartbroken at the thought of losing these vital spaces for wildlife during our catastrophic biodiversity crisis. As you well know, biodiversity and climate change go hand in hand, we cannot implement large scale solar farms at the cost of our dwindling biodiversity. I recognise that the plans for Green Hill solar farm state the implementation of wildlife corridors and wildflower planting, but building this site will cost the lives of the animals already living in these spaces and deter them from building habitats here in future.

As a planet, we need renewable energy sources. With the space not currently being used for anything and away from any immediate housing, I can understand why this space is being considered.

I am worried because if the land owners are interested in developing this land and this is turned down - what may come in its place - warehouse etc?

There is no need for green spaces to be used to house solar panels when there are plenty of available brownfield sites that would not have the same, damaging effect on wildlife etc

I do wish they would not take up farm land for sola farms and instead look into putting solar panels on top of industrial buildings, hospitals etc

We need clean energy, and as a whole need to accept some disruption from the production of it , agriculture at its base level is the interception of sunlight to create energy , be it protein , carbohydrates, fibre or electricity I believe that every farm should be allowed to have a small scale land based energy generating scheme on their land ,

I have submitted my objections to WNC planning

I strongly oppose quality agricultural land being taken out of production. I understand the country doesn't have enough battery capacity to hold any power provided, similar to the wind turbine farce, the astronomical cost of installing the solar panels which for the

most part are manufactured overseas, making a mockery of the "green energy " it claims to represent. Surely a better idea is to make it compulsory for new build housing and industrial warehouses to install it.

Put the solar farms on landfill sites instead of ruining the countryside.

Solar panels should never be on productive farmland. It will not be a farm it will be an industrial energy complex, covering one quarter of all the land in Walgrave Parish from A43 down to Pitsford Reservoir. GHSF is owned totally by Macquarie Bank of Australia

There will be no benefit to the UK tax payer only rich off-shore investor's. The British countryside is threatened by 20-30 similar schemes ruining countryside forever. We need our countryside protected for food production, nature recovery and for our recreation in nature for our mental health. Solar should be installed on existing buildings and brownfield only!

concerned about long term national food security.

No wildlife. No farming. No food. No countryside. No benefit to us. No Solar Farm

I am behind renewable energy schemes but against using thousands of acres of farmland for it.

We have enough large buildings to place solar panels on, this is just a profit scheme for a faceless corporation thousands of miles away and will not feed anything into our community, including cheaper energy supplies. We will be the ones who have to suffer disruption for years to come, too much pain for no gain!

There has been little coverage on the local village web site, whereas I feel it should have been shouted from the rooftops . Possibly because of this, I am disappointed both with the level of public active opposition and lack of awareness of the full implications. I also feel, as do many others, that this project will be signed off by a net zero fanatic no matter what.

I feel the money could be put to better use. Our roads and streets are full of pot holes. Our drains are never cleaned like they were in the past which could be a reason for localised flooding. Wildlife have no where to be safe. The landscape will be ruined which is why people choose to live in a village not to see fields filled with solar panels!!

Put them on roofs, car parks, factories or in the middle of fields that are no where near any villages.

It's just too big and some locations are unsuitable. The quiet lane in particular should be protected from developments of this scale

Simple - not here

I am, generally, in favour of investment in green energy but not when it destroys valuable farmland and impacts very negatively on the local environment and habitats especially when we are a county with vast amounts of warehousing and new housing development.

In recent (last 5) years, there has been significant new development over a 5 mile radius of my village. New houses with limited supporting infrastructure, creating unreasonable competition for services, significant increase in traffic pollution and noise and causing a once in a generation change to the environment where I have lived for over 25 years. The new homes built have displaced land previously exclusively used for agriculture. The new homes have been built without any consideration for renewable energy (several thousand roof tops with no requirement to include solar panels) and now we are faced with the removal of a further 1,200ha of agricultural land to create solar farms. The proposed plans demonstrate a continued absence of joined up thinking. Our area has already undergone more than its fair share of change through development. The proposed sites for the solar farms are bigger than any of the local villages that will be surrounded by them, completely changing, again, the nature and natural environment of these villages. Local wildlife is being forced onto an ever decreasing number of hectares. The local increased population is competing for ever decreasing open space. Local constituency boundary changes mean that we are now represented by decision makers who are remote from the impact of planning decisions that appear to be focussed on our area, leaving the local population feeling disenfranchised (and also out-voted by all the newcomers to the area who have not had chance to become emotionally attached to their locality). All planning proposals that are currently submitted and which impact on our area currently seem significant. Local housing development plans that continue to be submitted for along the A43 area are for significant numbers of housing and we now face the prospect of a huge solar farm surrounding and using up most of the remaining land. Finally, I am concerned with food security. The proposals for Green Hill Solar Farm will take further significant amounts of agricultural land out of food production at a time when we, as taxpayers, are told that we must fund a big increase in our security (armed forces) capability. There is limited point in having improved security capability if we are not able to feed ourselves. In summary, the challenge to Greenhill is 1) why are alternatives ignored (panels on all the new roofs); 2) the size of the proposed development is overwhelming; 3) We have already had far more than our fair share of generational changes forced on our local environment; 4) impact on food security.

need to utilise all alternative energy we cannot be NIMBYS about this, climate change is real

we are supportive of Walgrave being included in the move to green energy

On the basis that a project of this type will reduce the need for imported fossil fuel and increase diversity I am in overall favour of it. However, I do have some concerns which I list below: i) Visual intrusion. I understand solar panel heights can be as much as 6 m. Northamptonshire is a relatively flat county and is not easy to 'hide' a development like this into the landscape., as it may be elsewhere. Security fences could also need to be of a similar height. I feel this could have a significant negative effect on the area. ii) Closeness to the village of Old. Area A shown on the development plan shows the development to be particularly close to the village. Is this necessary? iii) Construction traffic and permanent road crossings. It is inevitable that a project such as this will generate increased traffic and temporary road closures. It will be important that HGVs etc are routed away from the villages and road closures are minimised. Should the project be given the go ahead, it would be good if the communities affected could be shown to benefit in some way I would like to see that a reasonable proportion of any profits generated is used to enhance local community facilities and the local environment.

While I am strongly in favour of solar energy and support the green energy transition, but I have concerns and objections to the Green Hill Solar Farm. 1- Noise and disruption - I moved to Walgrave for a peaceful, quiet lifestyle and I am deeply concerned about the noise generated by a solar farm of this scale (both during construction and operation). Learning that this Solar farm is due to be developed in close proximity to my home is causing a great deal of concern. Further, the substation (the noisiest part of a solar farm) at site A of the development, is in close proximity to Walgrave village, and in turn to my home. I'm not sure why the substations are located as close as possible to the village, and not located as far away from the village as possible. 2 - Loss of agricultural land - the fields being used for this solar farm are agricultural lands, used to grow crops. I believe that in the current political climate, food security is of utmost importance and I am concerned about losing this land to a solar farm of this scale. There are ample brown fields and non agricultural land that can be used to develop these solar farms, so utilising important land that is needed for crop growing seems unnecessary. 3 - Impact on wildlife - these sites are crucial habitats for many species and cover sites of special scientific interest. In particular the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits which is a protected area attracting over 20,000 water birds, vital populations of Golden Plover, Gadwall and Bittern. I am heartbroken at the thought of losing these vital spaces for wildlife during our catastrophic biodiversity crisis. As you well know, biodiversity and climate change go hand in hand, we cannot implement large scale solar farms at the cost of our dwindling biodiversity. I recognise that the plans for Green Hill solar farm state the implementation of wildlife corridors and wildflower planting, but building this site will cost the lives of the animals already living in these spaces and deter them from building habitats here in future. I recognise the importance of green energy, and support its development. In fact, I would be in support of a smaller scale development being

proposed within close proximity to my home. However, the plans for Green Hill Solar Farm are enormous, exacerbating the concerns I have with its development. While not mentioned above, the recent occurrence of substation fires across the country has also added to my worries.

Environmental impact on residents & wildlife in the area

This proposal flies in the face of initial government advice- new developments should not be on agricultural land needed for food production but on brown site land. It surrounds the village but also adds to substantial solar panels on A14

This is not a case of NIMBY-ism but sensible and pragmatic opposition to Green Hill Solar, with the strong recommendation to put the same amount of solar panels proposed by Green Hill Solar farm onto the 4million square metres of unused warehouse roof space in Northamptonshire. Come on, it's blindingly obvious that it makes no sense to put these panels on rich farm land when we have huge areas of unused industrial space.

The idea of putting them on warehousing roofs is better. Rendering farm land unusable will have long term impact on production in this country. By the time it's built technology will have moved on. What happens when they become obsolete. Will they be left to rot. The upshot is that there must be a better. Less impactful way of securing renewable energy.

Concerns have been voiced many times subsequently being picked up by the correct groups however realistically it feels like this already a done deal and nothing we do or say will change that.

I fear they are being somewhat economical with the truth regarding potential disruptions in both the short and longer terms. Any long term advantages are debatable, especially with regard to local communities.

Concern about noise

Would like to see improvements for the village to mitigate the impact of the solar farm proposals e.g Solar Panels on community buildings

I'm opposed to solar farms on agricultural land. There are alternatives such as on buildings, Car parks etc that won't destroy our countryside and British farming. This farm will impact our village.

What happens when the Council want to widen the A43. We do need a slip road coming off the A43 into Kettering Road. Why can't they put solar panels on top of barns, sow sheds, houses, flats, factories, car parks, hospitals etc. We need our farm land.

Whilst I am in favour of solar power, I feel warehouses, car parks and new build houses should be used to locate the panels. I am very concerned about the environmental and ecological impact of the proposed development.

Should not be using on arable land it should be on warehouse ect.

Strongly disagree with use of current agricultural land, accept the need for solar anergy but WHY not place on warehouse roofs, new houses and well away from any residential areas

It's an inconvenient truth that we need to respond to climate change. Our response will be create problems for us. It's our fault so we have to sort it out

I have already written to the M.P about this matter voicing my disapproval. Countryside should be country sides not glass sheets, panels should be on rooftops + farm buildings full stop.

The impact of this development and its construction will be detrimental to the environment and our community. The damage will be permanent and irreversible.

Wildlife will suffer , how big is the carbon footprint just to assemble, food is more important than solar

Strong concerns that farming land would be taken out of use, thus increasing our reliance on imported produce and much greater pollution levels. Diesel ships are some of the most polluting vehicles on earth, and the alternative is most likely diesel lorries, it is a smokescreen that installing acres of pv panels is eco friendly, it just pushes the pollution elsewhere. Government's main purpose is defence of the people and that includes food security. The more we have to import as a nation the less secure we are. I am also very concerned about what happens at the end of life stage of the pv panels. There will be millions of them in the country coming to the end of their life at roughly the same time . What provisions will be made for the recycling of the panels and the prevention of them going to landfill. I can foresee that the company will take all the profits and then close before the decommissioning leaving the landowner or tax payer to pay. I am also concerned that the panels will come from China, a country which has one of the worst humans rights records ever, has been carrying out genocide against the Uighurs more recently and the Tibetans for years. They have been aiding Russia in its war against Ukraine, we should not be propping up their economy.

No benefit to the local community. Battery storage noisy and problematic. Capacity of A43. Use brownfield sites, industrial/commercial rooftops and new housing roofs

References:

- Loss and mental health
- Definition of community as belonging.
- House price estimates
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