

I would like to raise the following objections to the proposed Greenhill Solar Farms project which should be given full consideration.

BESS safety & flood risk

1. The increased risk of flooding in the area and my back garden which borders the brook running through Mears Ashby. The nature of the solar panels and storage facility will increase run-off and impact the water table, putting pressure on the spring and riverlets in the area. The River Nene is subject to major flood hazard in this area and no adequate provision has been made for this.

No detailed flood risk study has been done to my knowledge.

Traffic and PRoW/Access

2. The project will dominate and transform the local landscape, leading to significant adverse visual effects during construction, operation, and decommissioning phases. The scale (3000 acres+) and nature of the development are incompatible with the existing agricultural land use.

Northamptonshire is one of the most 'de-natured' counties in the country and this would significantly impact local habitats and biodiversity.

The economics of this project are based on a greater yield from Grade 1 and Grade 2 farmland owned by parties outside of our area. The country needs greater agricultural production to be self-sufficient rather than less.

Local Economy

3. The storage and grid connection facilities should be made available to other alternative projects locally as a condition of any approval.

I would recommend that if approved, that a minimum of 25% capacity be provided to warehouse roof top and brownfield projects, free of charge. The project should provide a minimum amount of MW from brownfield and warehouse rooftop projects. I would recommend a 25% minimum.

Legislation

4. The project should agree to meet any future legislation requirements regarding solar panels and solar farms. Specifically this should include providing free electricity to the impacted villages for both residents and local businesses. This should be a minimum of 5% of the capacity generated.

This would create jobs and encourage business activity in an area with little growth.

Ecology/Water

5. The project will have a significant impact on local wildlife, protected nature reserves and SSI's. The proposal has not researched this sufficiently, especially with regard to migratory birds and the feeding territory of birds or prey which are protected species.

Agriculture (BMV)

6. The project should not be permitted to use category 1 and 2 farm land currently used for arable production. It should be limited to category 3 and above land only.

Heritage

7. Archaeology and Heritage issues have not been taken into consideration. The Nene Valley is home to many Iron Age, Bronze Age, Roman and Viking settlement remains. A full study should be completed, specially in areas around river crossings and historic settlements

We strongly recommend that this proposal be refused.

The company should find an alternative site more suited to this project

I would like to present and make representations to authorities in person to make my case for the refusal of this application.

Personal information removed as per instructions