

The cable route as currently proposed will sterilise an area of consented minerals development. Furthermore, this area is identified as a Sand and Gravel Safeguarding area by the North Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Plan. Policy 28 of the Plan which applies to Sand and Gravel Safeguarding areas states:

Policy 28: Minerals Safeguarding Areas

Mineral resources of economic importance will be safeguarded from sterilisation by incompatible non-mineral development through the designation of Minerals Safeguarding Areas. Development of a significant nature within Minerals Safeguarding Areas will have to demonstrate that the sterilisation of proven mineral resources of economic importance will not occur as a result of the development, and that the development would not pose a serious hindrance to future extraction in the vicinity. If this cannot be demonstrated, prior extraction will be sought where practicable.

Development of a non-mineral related nature within the Mineral Safeguarding Areas which is incompatible with the safeguarding of minerals should not proceed unless:

- it can be clearly demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Mineral Planning Authority that the mineral concerned is no longer of any value, or potential value, or that substantial (economically viable) deposits of a similar quality exist elsewhere in the county, or
- the mineral can be extracted, where practicable, prior to the development taking place, or
- the incompatible development is of a temporary nature and can be completed with the site restored to a condition that does not inhibit extraction within the timescale that the mineral is likely to be needed, or
- the development is of a minor nature which would not inhibit extraction of the mineral resource, or
- there is an overriding need for the development.

As such, the proposed cable route and associated development of the Green Hill Solar Farm does not comply with the requirements of the North Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste plan and my client requests that the cable route be amended so as to not sterilise the consented minerals development.