

SUBMISSION TO THE EXAMINERS, DECEMBER 2025

HUMAN HEALTH

DOCUMENT REFERENCES:

GH6.2.18 APP-055

EN-1

GH8.1.15

1. My name is Philip Anthony, I am a resident in Grendon (IP number [REDACTED]). My background includes a doctorate in social aspects of psychiatry at the University of Manchester and experience working within health services for the NHS executive working on hospital data and in mental health services. Latterly I worked as a senior lecturer in mental health issues at the University of Hertfordshire. I mention this background only because of its relevance to the issue of health.
2. Policy EN-1, paragraph 4.4.3 states that “new energy infrastructure may also affect the composition and size of the local population, and in doing so have indirect health impacts, for example if it in some way affects access to key public services, transport, or the use of open space for recreation and physical activity”.
3. Greenhill Solar have appropriately responded to this by presenting their findings and interpretations in **GH6.2.18 (APP- 055)**. Their documentation comprises health models, data analyses at the lowest available geographical level, and interpretations. The authors of the report, as confirmed in their responses to examiners questions at deadline 1, state that the conclusions they draw are based on “professional judgement” and experience of presenting similar materials in previous examinations (SGHS 025).
4. The examiners in this enquiry are entitled to ask exactly what the health-related qualifications are and why their judgement should hold beyond those with more extensive experience. Experience of presenting data in other enquiries qualifies

them to present data but does not validate any interpretations placed on those data.

5. There are contradictions in the Greenhill documentation regarding the use of subjective data. Thus, in SGHS 026 there is a defence of population level data, whilst the impact of the Greenhill development on house sales and values is dismissed as “not consistent or predictable”. However, a significant increase in the numbers of properties for sale in Grendon since the advent of the proposals, and an Estate Agents’ estimate relating to a 20% devaluation in house prices in Walgrave should the scheme proceed, are offered as real evidence of economic, social and community impacts. The 20% reduction in house prices near large-scale solar schemes has been evidenced elsewhere as well.
6. Greenhill solar account for the very limited mention of Walgrave, Holcot and Lavendon in their assessment because their location means that the scheme is “less visible” to them (SGHS-026). This response ignores the data provided for Walgrave relating to the subjective experience of the application.
7. **From GH6.2.18 – in response to a consultation query by UK Health Security Agency/Office for Health Improvement and Disparities:** “The Applicant confirms that the baseline data in Section 18.6 below has been undertaken to ward level to determine baseline conditions in the 2 km ZOI. The Applicant furthermore confirms that consultation with local authority public health teams has been initiated prior to PEIR and will continue to ensure the in relation to the assessment scope and methodology up to DCO submission. The Applicant has used the statutory consultation period to understand public engagement with matters of human health and wellbeing so that concerns can be discussed, understood, and suitable mitigation measures put in place where required. The scope of consultation was agreed with the host local authorities through the Statement of Community Consultation, with any additional required consultation being undertaken following statutory consultation and prior to DCO submission”.

The applicant is invited to specify precisely what “matters of human health and wellbeing” were discussed during and after the statutory consultation period, with whom, and what “suitable mitigation measures” were devised for implementation following those consultations. The applicant is further invited to explain the absence of public consultations in Mears Ashby and Holcot where such questions might have been explored.

8. The ability of the Greenhill assessors to identify the dynamic impacts of construction of a new solar farm from “static” datasets has no reference to any pre and post construction sites elsewhere. The ability of the Greenhill authors to judge the long-term impacts of the construction on health and community wellbeing is, we propose, pure speculation. In such circumstances we would ask that the examiners ignore that report altogether and take another view: To take into account the collected subjective experiences and views of local residents and the available survey information such as that from Walgrave.
9. Thus, on Tuesday evening there was a moving account of the therapeutic importance of the local countryside from a resident in Mears Ashby. In written submissions there is an equally moving account from a head teacher of the importance placed on “de-stressing” through regular walks between Grendon and Mears Ashby and the depressing prospect of a future walking through industrialised fields. Another Grendon resident used the term “insanity” when realising the extent of the proposals in the area. These examples could, without doubt, be replicated across each of the historic villages impacted by the proposed scheme. As we have learned when discussing the scheme locally, the relationship between the people and the area remains real. There are historic names for some of the fields. There are personal designations for some of the walks where two people proposed marriage, where dog walkers and visitors meet. These are part of the health and well-being of those who give a different identity to each village.

10. What is being identified via these accounts is the prospect of loss. We know that the experience of loss gives rise to anger and depression. We also know that it affects the relationship between people and their community. The affection that people have for their local area and their investment and sense of belonging within the community become attenuated and over time the sense of cohesion and belonging is weakened and eventually lost.

11. Approximately 2 miles from where we are now sitting the great romantic poet of the Northamptonshire countryside, John Clare, scratched his last poem on the wall of the then Northampton Asylum - his cry of personal loss and longing for the countryside. His plaintive cry emerged, in part, as a consequence of dislocations brought about by Acts of Enclosure. And, 200 years later, if we are not dealing with a new act of enclosure here then I ask you to tell me what we are dealing with.

12. Not for one minute am I suggesting that implementation of this scheme will result in epidemics of major mental illness among local residents. What I am suggesting is that the bonds between people and place will be weakened, house values will fall and more people will seek to leave the area as their sense of place and belonging is diminished. There is likely to be some increase in frustration, in depression and in anxiety and concomitant other illnesses. All these effects fall outside of the possibility of severe toxicity in the event of fire. In view of all this I invite you, as examiners, to account the full significance of these health impacts both in the near- and longer-term future.

- **Human Health – responses from Greenhill:** SGHS-027 – The applicants response ignores the Walgrave survey cited above as well as other anecdotal evidence. Such evidence is qualitative in nature – but see the response to SGHS-025 where qualitative data is accepted as appropriate in this area.
- **Human Health – responses from Greenhill:** SGHS-028 – Impact of PRoW closures. The inspectors should be invited to review the “professional judgement” governing the decision to score (temporary / intermittent?) closure of TP182 and consequent traversing of the track with HGV traffic as “temporary moderate-minor adverse” effect. Local judgements can be provided to the effect that the local impact will be major.
- **Human Health – responses from Greenhill:** SGHS-029 – “culture”. Contrary to the applicants response to SGHS-025 the use of quantitative population-based data is now seen as the critical element for this judgement. Whilst it is of course accepted that there are individual decisions behind the reason to relocate, reports from local residents who are planning to relocate together with the known reduction in asking prices for houses for sale indicates that the applicants’ case is not made on this issue.
- **Human Health – responses from Greenhill:** SGHS-031 – character of Grendon. The applicant refers to justifications and mitigations in earlier documentation.