From: Cllr Jon-Paul Carr <[redacted]>
Sent: 06 August 2026 12:45 AM
To: FAHNBULLEH, Miatta (MP) <[redacted]>
Subject: Green Hill Solar Farm Development Consent Order application EN010170

Subject: Request to Refuse the Development Consent Order for Green Hill Solar Farm (EN010170)

Dear Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero

I am writing in my capacity as a North Northamptonshire Councillor representing the Irchester Ward to respectfully urge you to refuse the Development Consent Order for the proposed Green Hill Solar Farm (EN010170).

I fully support the United Kingdom's commitment to achieving net-zero emissions and recognise the vital role that renewable energy will play in delivering a sustainable future. However, I do not believe that this proposal represents an appropriate or proportionate approach to meeting those objectives.

At approximately 1,200 hectares Solar Farm would be one of the largest developments of its kind in the country. Within my ward alone, the scheme would have a significant impact on the communities of Bozeat, Easton Maudit, Grendon, Wollaston and Strixton. The scale of the development would fundamentally alter the character of these rural landscapes and transform large areas of productive agricultural land into industrial infrastructure.

Residents across the affected communities have consistently expressed serious concerns regarding the loss of valuable farmland, the impact on local biodiversity, the erosion of rural character, damage to the historic environment and landscape, and the wider implications for food security. There is also considerable anxiety about the disruption that would arise during the construction phase and the long-term consequences for those who live, work and farm in the area.

The Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) process has, unfortunately, left many local people feeling that their concerns have not been given sufficient weight. Strong objections have been raised by residents, parish councils, and elected representatives throughout the affected area. Proceeding with the scheme despite such widespread opposition risks reinforcing the perception that decisions are being imposed upon communities rather than developed in partnership with them. In turn, this could undermine public confidence in the broader transition to net-zero, which depends upon maintaining community support and trust.

There are alternative ways of expanding renewable energy generation that would achieve environmental objectives while minimising impacts on communities and productive land. Greater emphasis should be placed on brownfield sites, commercial and industrial rooftops, warehouses, car parks, highway verges, and other previously

developed land. A more distributed approach to renewable energy deployment would help secure public support while protecting valued landscapes and agricultural resources.

Now that the Planning Inspectorate has submitted its recommendations, I respectfully ask that you give careful consideration to the concerns of those communities most directly affected by the proposal and refuse this application. Such a decision would demonstrate that the Government is committed not only to delivering clean energy but also to protecting productive farmland, respecting rural communities, and ensuring that the transition to a greener future is both fair and sustainable.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss these concerns further with you or your officials and would be happy to provide additional local evidence. I would also be pleased to facilitate a visit to the affected area so that the scale and implications of the proposal can be understood firsthand.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Jon-Paul Carr
Irchester Ward (comprising Bozeat, Easton Maudit, Grendon, Strixton, Wollaston, Irchester, Little Irchester, Knuston, Great Doddington and Wilby)
North Northamptonshire Council
23 High Street, Irchester
Northamptonshire
NN29 7AA

Tel: [redacted]