



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

SENT BY EMAIL

Planning Inspectorate

Reference Number: EN010170

greenhill@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

22 September 2026

Re: Green Hill Solar Farm – Invitation to Comment

Application by Green Hill Solar Limited (“the Applicant”) for an Order granting Development Consent for the proposed Green Hill Solar Farm (“the Green Hill Solar Farm Project”)

I am writing to you in my capacity as the Member of Parliament for South Northamptonshire and an “Interested Party” in this application for the Green Hill Solar Farm Project.

It has already been well documented in previous submissions that we have grave concerns about safety of this project given its nature, size and scale, with a particular concern in relation to the BESS and panels themselves.

This has only been reinforced by the response from National Grid dated 11 September 2026. Here they firstly highlighted concerns about the level of insurance that should be carried – whilst the Applicant argued for £20 million of insurance, National Grid firmly maintains its position that £50 million insurance cover should be carried to *“reflect the critical nature of the infrastructure being protected and the potential for very high losses to occur in the event of damage”*. As they further state (with my emphasis) *“the figure of £50 million reflects the critical nature of NGET’s infrastructure and the potentially catastrophic consequences of asset damage including the risk of substantial third-party claims for personal injury and property damage, and the potentially significant costs associated with repair, network disruption and emergency response”*.

Whilst National Grid are understandably concerned about the potential damages that could be caused to their infrastructure by hazards such as battery fires or electrical anomalies, their demands for the operator to carry significantly higher insurance are also due to the inherent risks associated with the project, the full extent of which are not known. After years of planning, the designs of the sites are not finalised and the associated risks therefore remain “unknown”. As they say:

Member of Parliament for South Northamptonshire

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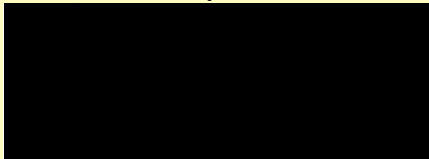
“It should be noted that although NGET has identified high-level concerns with the presence of the BESS and the 400kV substation to the Grendon Substation, until a design of the Project is provided to NGET in accordance with the terms of the Protective Provisions, NGET will not be in a position to be able to determine the level of risk that may arise from any other part of the Project, including cables.”

Matters of safety for a project of this scale are not negotiable. It cannot be acceptable or logical that National Grid is “*not included as a consultee*” of the Battery Safety Management Plan upon which this application relies. If experts such as National Grid have “*not yet had the opportunity to consider the extent of this risk in detail*” and are subsequently not satisfied that the risks of battery or substation fires have been sufficiently addressed, then how can this project possibly be approved? Beyond National Grid’s concerns for their network assets and the £50m insurance requirement, what could be the human cost of a battery fire for my constituents? The village of Easton Maudit is to be surrounded by solar panels on three sides. I understand that there is no evacuation plan for Grendon in the event of a fire, despite its proximity to the site. What environmental and health impacts could even a small battery fire have for nearby residents and wildlife?

That there is any uncertainty about the safety of the proposals at this stage is entirely unacceptable. If National Grid are not satisfied that the current level of risk to its infrastructure has been covered by existing proposals, then I am not satisfied that this application is safe for my constituents.

On the basis of safety alone, I would encourage the Secretary of State to refuse consent for the Green Hill Solar Farm proposal. When taken together with the vast array of other significant reasons against this application, it is clear it would be inappropriate to grant consent.

Yours sincerely,



Member of Parliament for South Northamptonshire