



**George Freeman MP**  
**Member of Parliament for Mid Norfolk**

22<sup>nd</sup> April 2026

**RE: The Drovers Solar Farm request for event participation for Issue Specific hearing Thursday 7th May 26**

As Member of Parliament for Mid Norfolk, I am writing to register my request for event participation for Issue Specific hearing Thursday 7th May 26. Details of my request are as follows.

1. The inappropriateness of using National Infrastructure Powers (designed for nuclear power stations & MoD bases) for the governments Solar Plan on heavily subsidised commercial solar businesses.
2. The **cumulative** impact of the scale of the proposed Highgrove & Drovers developments on the c25 villages in this part of Central Norfolk
  1. habitats / wildlife / environment
  2. the local landscape / tourism (fundamentally changing the attractiveness to tourism & house buyers of this part of Norfolk from Castle Acre (one of our most beautiful historic visitor attractions) to the Peddars Way and Swaffham and surrounding areas.)
  3. Construction traffic
  4. Fire risk
  5. Power grid capacity (requiring extra grid upgrade costs)
3. The **cumulative** impact of the scale of the proposed Norfolk solar belt, and associated grid upgrade, on making Norfolk an increasingly attractive location for more solar (land agents reports of c20,000 acres in the pipeline).
4. The **cumulative** impact of the scale of the proposed solar farms on Norfolks agricultural and rural economy and position as a leading UK county of agricultural innovation
  1. Today
  2. Long term given the degradation of soil beneath long term solar panels (many of which are anticipated in the applications to be in place for 30/40 years).

Yours sincerely,



**George Freeman MP**  
**Mid Norfolk**