

Madam Inspector, thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

I come before you as a resident of this village, deeply concerned about the proposed solar farm, which would be located a mere 600 metres from my home.

While I fully support renewable energy and the need for sustainable solutions, this particular proposal raises significant issues that make it unsuitable for approval.

Fillongley is a historical agricultural village where the land has been farmed for centuries.

The proposed site includes 96% Best and Most Versatile agricultural land recognized for its high quality and versatility in food production.

Government policies, such as the 25-Year Environment Plan, emphasize the need to protect BMV-land from inappropriate development.

Such policies also state that solar farms should be well-screened and sensitively planned to minimize visual impact.

In addition the plan should address concerns about the visual impact and impact to property values.

None of these factors have been considered or addressed for the impacted residences.

By targeting this land, the proposal directly undermines these policies and compromises our nation's food security.

This is not derelict land—it is actively used and valuable for its contribution for produce and can continue to do so.

Moreover, this proposal fails to meet several local planning criteria.

- It disregards location guidelines,
- fails to adequately address increased flood risks,
- does not comply with size or development plans set by the Parish and local councils.
- With other Solar farms already approved in close proximity, approving another would be excessive and unjustifiable, encasing residents.

Additionally, there are troubling uncertainties regarding the applicants and funding of this project.

- The applicants are registered at an address associated with multiple solar farm ventures. There is evidence that a number of these types of companies have been set up and subsequently been wound down.
- This makes it impossible to ascertain the true stakeholders and funding origins.
- Raising concerns about potential risks to UK infrastructure and undermines trust in the process.

The temporary nature of this installation is also misleading.

- The site will remain active for 40 years.
- if we consider the construction phase and then the decommission phase, the project will be in place for close to if not over half a century.

- It will take another 15 years to remediate visual effects, which is substantial for a so-called temporary project.

Green spaces can have a positive impact on menopause symptoms.

- Research suggests that living near greenery may help reduce stress, which in turn can influence hormonal balance and even delay the onset of menopause.
- For context my wife is going through perimenopause, highlighting other health impacts in addition to the mental health of residents who will be overwhelmed by the scale and proximity of the solar farm

We should also consider children. My two are present to support the appeal against the application and we should consider the following;

- *In the growing age of social media, green space is very important, as it encourages Physical activity*
- Green spaces encourage exercise, which can help manage weight gain, mood swings, and bone health, particularly for growing children.
- We moved to this area post Covid to escape industrialisation and seek green space.
- The views was the primary reason we moved to this area. Making a huge financial commitments to move to this exact location.

Finally, I urge you Madam Inspector to visit our home and see for yourselves the full visual and emotional impact this proposal will have on our lives and that of our neighbours

Standing in my home and looking out at the views that will be lost is the only way to fully understand the magnitude of what is being asked of our community.

In closing, this proposal is deeply flawed.

It conflicts with national and local guidelines, sacrifices high-value agricultural land which helps to feed our nation, and severely impacts the quality of life in this historical village.

I urge the inquiry to reject this application and prioritize sustainable development that respects both the environment and the community.

Thank you very much for your time.