Dear Planning Inspector and Development Planning Team,

Proposal: Installation of a solar park to export up to 25 MW (AC) electricity, comprising up to 40,000no. photovoltaic panels, up to 7no. inverters & transformers, 2no. electrical buildings, 1no. onsite control building, boundary fencing and gates, security cameras, and associated infrastructure and engineering operations 25/00652/FUL

Location: Land East of Billing Brook and North and South of Peterborough Road Haddon

Our previous objections to this development remain valid. In addition, I would like to offer further comments with regards to flooding and road safety for consideration.

Flood Risk Assesment

We have serious concerns regarding the Flood Risk Assessment submitted with the proposal. The assessment appears to overlook the potential impact of the solar panels on increased surface water run-off from the site. This represents a significant omission that could substantially affect flooding events. The proposed swales whilst welcome are likely to silt up quickly, which will render them useless. No provision has been proposed for the maintenance of the swales. Such oversights do not align with the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), paragraph 173, which stipulates that developments must be safe for their operational lifetime without increasing flood risk elsewhere.

We farm the land located on the opposite bank of Billing Brook from the proposed development. As the banks are lower on our side, our land is particularly vulnerable to flooding. Increased flooding would significantly impede our ability to farm and elevate the risk of soil erosion and crop loss.

Road Safety

Below is an aerial photograph of the A605 near the proposed site access, which illustrates the proximity to the point where the road divides into three carriageways to the east. On the west side of the access are the solid bridge sides associated with the Billing Brook crossing. There is a downhill slope from the access into the adjacent fields, while to the east the verge rises towards the field, meaning any extension of the slipway would require either banking up or excavation.

The introduction of slow-moving lorries entering the carriageway at this location raises road safety concerns, as faster vehicles approaching from behind may attempt to overtake, increasing the risk of head-on collisions.



In recent weeks, there has been another fatality on this road, a few meters west of this access point. We ask for reconsideration regarding the approval of this access, as the traffic incident statistics for this road already indicate significant risk without introducing additional hazards. It is important to note that emergency services, including air ambulances, have had to attend traffic accidents on this road via fields adjacent to the road. Sadly, this has become a frequent occurrence on our fields next to the A605, immediately west of the site.

Further Development – The proposed amendments reducing the scale of the site appear to be intended to increase the project's acceptability. Future applications to expand the site remain possible. Solar companies provide rental returns that are far higher than those from farming, which may influence landowners' decisions. This situation raises concerns for tenant farmers regarding the potential loss of land and the impact on the viability of their farming operations. Although not entirely within planning regulations, consideration should be given to the possibility that approval of this proposal could encourage neighbouring landowners to participate, resulting in substantial expansion of the power plant. This would contribute to increased industrialisation of the area and the loss of farming businesses and wildlife habitats.

We confirm our objection to this application.

Regards

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