

Name: Horseheath Parish Council
Address: c/o White Chimneys, Cardinals Green, Horseheath CB21 4QX
Date: 12/10/2025
To: Kingsway Solar Farm Ltd
Project: Kingsway Solar Farm

We are responding to object as part of the Statutory Consultation on the proposed Kingsway Solar Farm.

Horseheath Parish Council is a strong supporter of green energy projects and of increasing local biodiversity and environmental improvement projects. We are pleased to have Horseheath Lodge within our Parish and the Devana project on our border. We are conscious that our village, while having the luxury of green walks, is also positioned in the middle of a nature depleted monoculture arising from intensive arable farming.

Our reasons for objecting to the Kingsway proposal are:

- **Too big** - While we are very supportive of attempts to increase the generation of green energy, we fear that the scale and site of this project are wrong. The evidence that we have reviewed suggests that this enormous project will further deplete the current flora and fauna over a wide area, enhancing Cambridgeshire's status as one of the most nature depleted counties in England - which is the most nature depleted country in Europe.
- **Wrong Site – and potential contamination of the Aquifer** - The impact on our neighbouring villages in terms of ecology, landscape and importantly human well-being are significant. We are also very concerned about possible contamination of the aquifer upon which we all rely. We believe this particular point is a major concern – siting batteries with potential for toxic run offs over the aquifer supplying drinking water for at least 350,000 people is clearly folly and a supreme reason for objection to this proposal.
- **Land value** - The land we live amongst is some of the most productive arable land in the country. We believe the value of food production should be priced in to land values; it is likely that if the basis for valuation was amended in this way the use of the proposed sites would become uneconomic compared to brownfield sites elsewhere.
- **Ecological detriment** - Large scale fencing cannot but harm our wildlife. Already there are insufficient green corridors to allow the pockets of wilderness to link and facilitate wider wildlife movements. We fear these proposals will drive nature from the area, in terms of insects, animals, birds and rare plantlife such as orchids. The huge areas proposed for the solar farm will become a different, but equally bleak and barren, monoculture. It is hard to imagine any interventions realistically producing a biodiversity net gain over the enormous areas proposed for this solar farm.
- **Visual and Aural landscape** impacts - Our relatively flat landscape, enhanced by a little roll, will ensure that the infrastructure continues to be visible from the villages most affected. Additionally, we fear noise pollution will become a constant feature of

our landscape close to the proposed development area arising from the hum of the equipment, as occurs in other sites across the country.

- **Loss of dark skies** - The impact of security lighting will damage our dark skies. The evidence we have seen is that both the infrastructure and aural and light pollution will significantly impact nocturnal wildlife and the environment for residents.
- **Transport Disruption** - Local South Cambs villages are used to large lorries at one time of year - harvest. The possibility of construction traffic being on local roads for two years constitutes a threat to residents in terms of noise, dirt and road damage. Moreover the potential for increased accidents and morbidity/mortality is significant and should be a major factor in planning construction should this happen.
- **Potential flood risks** - Surrounding villages with impermeable surfaces require detailed and effective modelling of flood risks, particularly given the likelihood of increasingly severe weather events with progressive climate change which must be factored in to all calculations.
- **Likely economic harm to the local economy** - Walking in the countryside will be permanently changed through this industrial infrastructure - 4.2 metres for the panels is very high and will be very visible. The infrastructure will reduce the appeal of our area from a tourism and indeed human habitation perspective, impacting house prices. Once the construction boom is finished after the first few years this means that this project will inevitably reduce local economic activity and the regional economy.
- **Public Rights of Way** - We believe this proposal will cause the loss of public rights of way – which is unacceptable.
- **Lack of a Decommissioning Plan** – There does not appear to be a decommissioning plan or a projection of the final impact on the local ecology subsequent to the completion of decommissioning and deconstruction.

This may be a nationally significant proposal but it is unclear how it fits with County strategies. It is also uncertain, given the detrimental impacts described above, what positive benefits might accrue to the local community. We realise that some of the issues we have raised may not formally fit within standard planning considerations, but we consider this major proposal will have huge long term impacts on a large area of South Cambridgeshire. It is therefore appropriate to include wider concerns.

Finally we reiterate we are very concerned about potential pollution of the aquifer and contamination of the ground. We do not believe significant industrial construction should occur at points where the aquifer, the major source of water for vast numbers of people, is relatively shallow.

We believe brownfield sites are always the best option in the construction of new alternative energy facilities and believe Downing renewables should re-examine this option.

We therefore strongly object to the proposal in its current form and request that it be reconsidered.

Regards

Horseheath Parish Council

