

SWAFFHAM PRIOR PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Mr John Covill. Clerk: Mrs Jude Griffiths

17 Mill Hill, Swaffham Prior, Cambridge, CB25 0JZ

Tel: 07833 784 626 email: clerk@swaffhamprior-pc.gov.uk

Dear Sir/Madam

Swaffham Prior Parish Council have considered the proposals laid out in your 'stage two consultation' and wish to register our objection to the proposed Kingsway Solar Farm as below.

Our objection is twofold, the first being the solar farm and battery storage (BESS) itself and secondly the transmission of the generated power to the National Grid.

The Solar Farm and Battery Storage System:

In principle, we have no objection to Solar Farms and believe they play an important part of the need to de-carbonised our energy consumption. Our motivation against the Kingsway proposal is due to the location.

Although the actual location of the proposed Kingsway Solar Farm is outside our Parish Boundary, it's siting, in an area of outstanding beauty on prime agricultural land is wrong. The area is on land above the aquifer feeding drinking water to tens of thousands, if not hundreds of thousands of people across Cambridgeshire, including Swaffham Prior.

Although the risk of a catastrophe is low, the consequences of a fire in the BESS are ENORMOUS. It's impossible to stop contamination from the massive quantities of water the Fire services would need to control such a fire, from polluting the aquifer and in turn the drinking water drawn from this aquifer.

The Transmission to Burwell Sub Station – connection to the National Grid:

The second objection against the proposed scheme, is the intended overhead pylon route which is through our Parish. It's quite extraordinary that a scheme can be proposed and only offer an 'indicative' indication of the route to Burwell Sub Station. As we understand, the actual location of the new substation needed has not yet been established.

The indicative route passes over a scheduled monument – Devil's Dyke – and then runs parallel for approximately 2.5km and at times within 150m of it; a significant visual intrusion.

Our Parish Council was instrumental with Cambridgeshire County Council in the Swaffham Prior Community Heating Scheme using Ground & Air Source to currently heat over 100 properties with more planned next year. The not significant electricity supply for this 'Energy Centre' followed a similar route and the need to protect the Vista, led to it being buried all the way to the Burwell Substation.

If the scheme is to generate any support from the Parish Council, we'd suggest the cables need to be buried from South of Devil's Dyke (just over the A14 bypass) all the way to the Burwell Station.

There's currently a Solar Farm proposal in our Parish, although smaller at 49.9 MW – Long Barrow Solar – their proposal includes burying the feed to the Burwell Station, please take note.

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

Yours sincerely

Jude Griffiths (Clerk)

On behalf of Swaffham Prior Parish Council