

Response from residents

Despite being in favour of the principle, many local people have concerns around the suitability of this site, the construction plans and the impact on wildlife.

The plan states that the route identified for the 24-week construction phase is "wide enough to accommodate transport vehicles and allow other traffic to pass." That claim is false.

On the video we presented <https://youtu.be/CC9QYCJDIQc> you will see there are pinch points on Pentlow Hill and Cavendish Bridge plus 3 very sharp bends.

On a long stretch of the hill even two cars cannot pass and on bends long vehicles will straddle the road. There is no provision for restitution of an already poor road surface, damage to verges, and the roadside badger setts (which are protected under law). A risk assessment of heavy use by the 900 HGV and LGV journeys planned to pass across the old one-way bridge at Cavendish would be prudent.

Safety is a concern with this aspect of the plan. Local people whatever their interest in the scheme, deserve better.

Moving on, I, like many people commend the work of Peter Brand Farms in land management and creating space for wildlife. While I note you have made a LEMP a requirement, the applicant has not shared any specific steps for biodiversity as recommended by the BRE which typically includes large areas of wildflowers, adding ponds and having a proper management scheme. Compared to other solar sites it comes across as a low priority.

The council's own Local Plan includes a policy in direct relation to protected species. Skylarks use the site for breeding and wintering. Golden Plovers flock and feed on the site. While the proposal includes an ecology assessment and new nesting sites for skylarks, the Spring-time development does not address the existing population, the badger setts or the neighbouring Otter, Buzzard, Red Kite and Barn Owl populations.

Enhanced biodiversity for this attractive landscape is a great opportunity and would do something to bolster goodwill locally and for future sites elsewhere.

I ask Members if they have any intention of approving this application, they make a site visit before they make their decision.

If you then still believe this is the best location for such a large solar farm, how can proper environmental benefits be put in place that ameliorate the impact on this open rural landscape? Local people, whatever their interest in the scheme, deserve this.

