

Good morning,

This objection is being made on behalf of CPRE-Sussex-the countryside charity. We believe climate change is a big threat to the countryside and support renewable energy projects but they must be in the right place.

Amendments to the NPPF 2024 from 7th February 2025 stresses that renewable energy schemes would still be subject to the policy requirements set out in the Framework alongside other environmental safeguards.

This application threatens valuable agricultural land, vital wildlife habitats and the unique character of the Manhood Peninsula completely contrary to the NPPF par. 187 which expects planning decisions to contribute to and enhance natural and local environment. Par.187also asks decisions to recognize the benefit of best and most versatile agricultural land. 3quarters of the site is BMV land. Some elements, such as substations, would prevent continued agricultural production of the site.

Turning now to nature, the Manhood Peninsula features plant and animal habitats of global rarity surrounded by Sites of Special Scientific Interest, such as Bracklesham Bay, Chichester Harbour and Pagham Harbour Local Natural Reserve.

Local policies 45,48, 49 and 52 are relevant here. Policy NE14 of the Chichester Emerging Local Plan seeks enhancement of the distinctive character of the Peninsula, particularly ecology. Policy NE4 supports protection of the wildlife corridors.

We are concern with the loss of key breeding birds. The loss of damp ground would be most serious given its use by red-listed young curlews.

I will conclude with a focus on water voles which are the fastest declining mammals in England and extension looms. Water voles are fully protected by law. Disturbing them or their habitat requires a license. Natural England will only issue a license if the proposal enhances their habitats and helps to conserve them. This proposal does not do this!

The proposal is inconsistent with the NPPF and Chichester District's Local Plan. The area is part of an essential wildlife corridor connecting the South Downs National Park to the coast. The Local Plan recognizes the corridor's importance.

This solar park would severely undermine efforts to protect and restore biodiversity which is essential to the survival of all life on earth, including humans.

Thank you

Maria Tomalova

CPRE Sussex Planning Campaigner