



Dear Ms. Curtis,

Ref: DC/21/04711 Full Planning Application - Change of use from agricultural land to solar farm and construction and operation of a solar photovoltaic ('PV') development with a capacity of up to 49.9MW with associated grid connection cable route, infrastructure and planting (accompanied by an EIA Statement).

I am writing to you on behalf of CARE Suffolk and its members regarding the planning application by EDF Renewables for a solar farm, associated infrastructure and change of land use. CARE Suffolk aims to protect and enhance the local countryside environment and lifestyle, so that we can all enjoy the physical and mental health benefits that come from the openness and tranquillity of the valuable natural landscapes in the area.

We **STRONGLY OBJECT** to the proposed development, and do not consider that its impacts can be made acceptable.

CARE Suffolk acknowledges that the transition to renewable energy, such as solar, is important in the UK's goals to reduce its carbon footprint as part of the climate emergency. However, it also recognises that carbon reduction is not as simple as just energy, nor is it the only route to tackling climate change, and that a balance must be sought to ensure the gains outweigh the losses.

Whilst the early engagement with the applicant was welcomed, it was also extremely disappointing and limited. The public consultation process was limited, eliminating the opportunity to contribute to the EIA and pre-application advice. The results reported from what did occur are very selective, using extreme bias in favour of the applicant. It has also been disappointing to see such a vague application which is significantly lacking in detail, and is non-responsive to the EIA stipulations.

Based on the available information in the application, CARE Suffolk find that the main reason for proposing a 210 acre solar facility in the Suffolk countryside is a grid connection, but this is not a valid reason to select a location that is unsuitable in so many other ways.

Further, we concluded that another major potential development appears to have been instantly dismissed – Statkraft Greybarn Solar Farm. With a significant number of industrial developments existing, approved, and proposed within the locality of the Bramford substation, this additional development cannot simply be discarded from the assessments, and the cumulative impact requires significant attention.

With the impressive community effort involved from a wide range of professional and expert backgrounds, we have discussed our findings and concerns in the accompanying report.

CARE Suffolk hereby asks the Mid Suffolk District Planning Authority to **REFUSE** the application, and ask that we be informed of the Planning Committee Meeting date so that we may attend.

Yours Sincerely,

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of Samantha Main.

Samantha Main

Chair, CARE Suffolk