



Arrow Valley Solar Project

Response to scoping stage on Proposed Arrow Valley Solar Case Reference: EN0110033

I am writing in response to the scoping stage, including the published scoping opinion (7th May 2026) of the proposed Arrow Valley Solar project.

I support renewable energy, including solar, as part of the UK's transition to energy security and independence. I understand that projects at scale will be needed if we are serious about energy security and reducing emissions. Likewise, I strongly support community energy, where local people can see and feel the benefits of clean power in their own area.

However, support for renewable energy does not remove the need to get individual schemes right. The detail matters, particularly for a proposal of this size.

I have been contacted by a significant number of residents across Stratford-on-Avon constituency, and I am setting out their serious concerns, so they are properly considered in this scoping consultation.

Residents have raised concerns about the overall scale of the scheme and how widely it is spread. At around 500MW, this is an exceptionally large proposal. The dispersed nature of the site and the distance between generating areas and grid connection points risks spreading impacts across a very wide rural area rather than containing them in a more manageable way. The Environmental Impact Assessment should reflect the cumulative impact of the scheme, not just individual parcels of land.

Flood risk is another key concern. This has been raised by residents and by affected parish councils. Parts of the proposed area lie close to the river and in locations with a known history of flooding. Residents are understandably cautious about how changes in land use and the installation of infrastructure could affect water movement and local conditions. This will require detailed modelling and mitigation that reflects local experience, not just standard assumptions.

In a similar way, there is a view locally that the water environment needs to be looked at in the round. Beyond direct flood risk, residents have raised questions about surface water runoff, soil compaction and how the layout of panels and associated infrastructure could influence drainage patterns. These are issues that can be addressed through good design, but only if they are properly assessed at this stage.

There are also concerns about the impact on landscape character and public access. This part of Warwickshire is defined by open countryside, heritage assets, fertile agricultural land, and well-used public rights of way. Residents value these spaces and are worried about the effect the



Manuela Perteghella

Member of Parliament for Stratford-on-Avon

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

Tel +442072192056

manuela.perteghella.mp@parliament.uk

proposal could have on views which have been like this for centuries, and on the experience of using those routes. These are everyday places for local people, and that should be properly recognised in the assessment.

Residents and relevant parish councils have also suggested that, given the scale of the proposal, the assessment of landscape and visual effects needs to be particularly thorough. That includes views from surrounding villages, the experience of public rights of way, and the cumulative effect of multiple parcels of development across a wide rural area. Matters such as tranquillity and dark skies are part of what defines this landscape and should be properly reflected in the assessment.

The suitability of the local road network during construction has also been raised. Rural lanes in the area are narrow and not designed for sustained heavy goods traffic, and existing pinch points, including the medieval bridge at Bidford, limit routing options. A clear and credible construction traffic plan will be essential.

In particular, Salford Priors, Wixford and Bidford-on-Avon parish councils have also highlighted the importance of taking a realistic view of construction impacts. For a scheme of this scale, that means properly modelling traffic movements, understanding the limits of the rural road network, and setting out clear mitigation. They have also raised specific concerns about the suitability of local bridges and constrained routes for heavy construction traffic, and the need for routing strategies that avoid infrastructure which may not be capable of accommodating these movements. Getting this right early on helps avoid problems later and builds confidence that the impacts can be managed.

Wixford Parish Council also highlighted that the proposal requires a substantial battery storage system for viability, and any such battery system represents a major fire hazard. Therefore, an emergency response plan will be required, taking into consideration the extremely worrying reduction of fire and rescue services in the Alcester area, and South Warwickshire in general, implemented by Warwickshire County Council.

Alongside these concerns, there is a broader point that has come through very strongly from residents. If infrastructure of this scale is to be built in their area, they expect to see a clear and meaningful local benefit.

There are examples locally of how renewable energy can work in partnership with communities, where schemes reinvest in the area and give local people a direct stake in the transition. That is the standard many residents now expect. For a project of this scale, community benefits should be built in from the outset.

There is also a consistent message from parish councils that the Environmental Impact Assessment needs to be broad enough to capture the full picture. This includes the treatment of agricultural land, particularly the use of best and most versatile land, the way ecological networks are affected



Manuela Perteghella

Member of Parliament for Stratford-on-Avon

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

Tel +442072192056

manuela.perteghella.mp@parliament.uk

across a large and dispersed site, and the impact on heritage settings and the historic landscape. Some parish councils have also raised concerns about whether sufficient baseline data is being used in some areas, and whether impacts are at risk of being understated or scoped out too early. None of these issues rule out development, but they do need to be properly understood so that decisions are taken on a sound and transparent basis.

Finally, residents, alongside both parish councils, have made the point that schemes of this scale inevitably have an effect on how people experience their local area. That includes construction activity, long-term changes to the landscape and how public spaces are used, but also more specific issues such as noise, vibration, lighting, and the visual and practical effects of infrastructure such as fencing and security measures. There are also concerns about operational impacts, including glint and glare and the need to properly assess safety considerations associated with battery storage. These are not reasons to avoid renewable energy, but they are part of ensuring that development is done well and with the support of the communities involved.

In summary, I support the role that solar energy must play in our future energy system. However, this proposal raises several legitimate, site-specific concerns that need to be urgently addressed in a thorough and transparent way.

I would ask that the next stage of this process properly reflects both the scale of the scheme and the expectations of the communities affected, including a much clearer approach to local benefit.

I will continue to engage with residents and parishes as more detail comes forward.

Yours sincerely,

Manuela

Dr Manuela Perteghella

Member of Parliament for Stratford-on-Avon