



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Sent to:

Low Carbon Group Ltd
EDF Power Solutions UK
PS Renewables
SSE Renewables Ltd

270726

Re: Cumulative Effects of the Solar Farm Projects on the Romney Marsh

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the cumulative impact of the solar projects on Romney Marsh and to urge collaboration among the various projects to assess their effects.

During my recent meetings with the solar farm companies, it was confirmed that no work has been undertaken to consider the environmental impact, effects on drainage during construction, or joint assessments of the visual amenity of the projects. Although meetings have occurred, there has been no discussion or planning to investigate or manage the combined effects of these factors.

The Planning Inspectorate's report for the South Brooks Project, December 2025, highlights the need for a comprehensive evaluation of the aggregate reduction in infiltration and increase in runoff from all relevant NSIPs and significant energy schemes on the Marsh. It emphasises the cumulative implications for Internal Drainage Board operations, pumping demand, ditch maintenance, and residual flood risk to settlements and agriculture. Additionally, the report notes that the proposed approach to flood risk assessment is incomplete and underplays the sensitivities of the Romney Marsh drainage system, aquifer, and field-scale hydrology.

The Low Carbon Scoping Opinion from July 2026, by the Planning Inspectorate, questions the justification for a 10km limit to the study area for cumulative effects. It advises that efforts should be made to agree on specific other developments for inclusion in assessment.

I share the concerns raised by Folkestone and Hythe District Council during their planning discussion on July 21 2026 that further questions need to be answered. I am pleased to see that further consultation will be undertaken with the local authority to agree on the scope and methodology of a cumulative development list, identifying this as a principal matter for further submissions.

TONY VAUGHAN MP
Member of Parliament for Folkestone and Hythe
tony.vaughan.mp@parliament.uk

From my discussions, I have observed that lessons learned from one project's consultations are not being shared with others including the management of drainage and construction. Consequently, approaches differ between projects.

To this end, could you please provide details of the assessment plans that will be completed in conjunction with the other solar projects to evaluate the combined effects?

To include;

1. Collaborative planning for traffic management and construction timing to minimise negative impacts.
2. Coordinated strategies for managing drainage.
3. Shared visual impact assessments.
4. Joint evaluation of environmental impacts.
5. Exploration of infrastructurally shared facilities to reduce individual project footprints.
6. Combined impact assessments on tourism, agricultural production and employment due to the extent of developments together.

I also request that all projects allow for the phased delivery of stakeholder consultation responses to prevent conflicts. This will ensure that all stakeholders who wish to respond and are affected by multiple projects can do so. Currently, all projects have stated they will adhere to their own timelines.

Where I have stated that we will take our 'fair share', the combined project proposals are far beyond this. The delicate countryside of the Romney Marsh requires greater consideration.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony Vaughan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tony Vaughan KC MP

Member of Parliament for Folkestone and Hythe