**Objection**

**Ref: DC/21/00060 (Land to The East Of The Channel, Burstall Hill) & DC/20/05896 – Planning Application for a Solar Farm and Battery Storage Unit on land south of Somersham and north of Burstall.**

Solar panels are a versatile source of low carbon electricity. Carefully sited on roofs or brown field sites they take up little room and may go unnoticed.

Building the proposed solar farm in the middle of the countryside flies in the face of common sense.

Because of its proximity to Ipswich and the increasing number of houses being built in Sproughton, the local countryside is a very valuable source of recreation and aid to well- being. Villagers make good use of the footpaths and enjoy the local views, wildlife and natural beauty.

Covering over 240 acres in solar panels that are above head height will transform the river valley from Flowton to Somersham. Open walks through this lovely area will be confined to caged corridors and birdsong will be overshadowed by the hum of electric motors. Wildlife paths will be disrupted, and construction and maintenance will affect breeding grounds.

This large area of productive farmland will also be lost to crop production.

Sproughton may be protected from the HGV’s needed during construction but vans and smaller vehicles used by the workforce will add to the congestion and noise already experienced in the village. The lanes around Burstall, Flowton and Somersham are totally unsuited to construction traffic.

I am also concerned about the combined impact of development around the Bramford substation. Construction on all sides seems to have been never ending in recent years and the solar farm would extend the radius of industrial activity far into the neighbouring countryside.

In short, the harm that would be done greatly outweighs the benefits from low carbon electricity which could, in any case, be obtained in other locations.

I am therefore objecting to this application on the grounds of:

Loss of visual amenity

Loss of good quality farmland

Impact from increased traffic

Impact on mental health and wellbeing

Cumulative impact over a wide area