

SUBMISSION BY PAM SPRECKLEY

1. CUMULATIVE IMPACT

The Sec of State for Energy Security and Net Zero in 2024 stressed that its “important to consider not just the impacts of individual proposals, but also whether there are cumulative impacts where several proposals come forward in the same locality”

In this one tiny area we already have:

- Drax (the biggest power station in Europe)
- 279 acre Solar Farm approved in Camblesforth
- 410 acre Solar Farm approved in Carlton
- 100MW Lakeside Energy Park, Drax BESS
- 100 acre solar farm awaiting approval in Hillam
- 2600 acres solar farm awaiting approval in Light Valley

And at least 18 other major energy developments in the vicinity (please see notes below)

Many more than Enso cite in their report.

The Helios 1176 acre solar farm and BESS storage area means the loss of 7.133 square miles of top grade agricultural land.

The Labour MP for Suffolk Coastal, recently called for an end to what she refers to as a "whack-a-mole strategy" for energy projects in the East of England, citing a "void of leadership" and that major infrastructure projects were not coordinated, leading to "applications being drawn up without community interests at their heart"

The same applies to this region.

- How do we know that this is the last of the projects to be considered amidst this “whack a mole” strategy that is emerging?
- How can the cumulative impact be assessed when this race to tap into Drax appears to be so fluid?
- Surely the cumulative impact of this huge development on this small community is already one proposal too far, especially mindful of the sacrifices it is already making for the nation’s greater good.
- When will enough be enough!

2. LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL ASPECTS

North Yorkshire is renowned for its picturesque landscapes, which not only defines our regional identity but also supports local tourism and the wellbeing of residents and visitors. The introduction of this large-scale solar development standing over 3m high and a large-scale BESS area, all surrounded by 2-3m high fencing and CCTV will significantly alter these vistas.

Screening may improve the vista but only after 15 years, so those directly affected now by this prison like environment don’t matter?

How can providing a solution in 15 years time to a serious lifechanging problem now, be acceptable?

Also screening will not achieve anything for those who enjoy such views from their first floors.

3. Fencing and Ecological Issues

At the last hearing, I raised the concern regarding the safety and welfare of the abundant wildlife in our area and the impact of security fencing that is to surround this entire site.

We already are dealing with a very distressing situation on the Enray Power Ltd solar farm site, currently under construction, where the developers erected a 6-foot wire mesh fence around the site and unwittingly, entrapped four deer which have only just been released.

I am sure that Enray Power gave assurances that such a situation would not arise as will Enso, so how can we be assured that appropriate measures are taken when erecting the pre and post installation fencing to protect areas of retained habitat of these larger mammals AND that also allow their safe migration across this massive 47 field site and the surrounding woodland?

Thank you for considering my input.

NOTES:

1. CUMULATIVE IMPACT – List of other projects in the vicinity

- Carbon capture pipeline through Humber region to Drax
- Barlow Fly Ash project
- In nearby villages 15 awaiting approval or status unknown:
- Greenergy Port Jackson SF & BESS 76.10acres not yet approved on Selby Rd near Barlow
- Osgodby/Cliffe SF & BESS Boom 166acres not sure if approved yet
- Scalm Park, Wistow Common SF & BESS 214.73acres don't think approved yet
- Quintas Cleantech Market Weighton Rd, Barlby SF & BESS 135acres and 10MW BESS not yet approved
- Woodcock Solar Farm SF & BESS Little Fenton 45.91acres awaiting decision
- Cawood SF & BESS awaiting decision 145.55acres and 10MW BESS
- Hillam Grange area unclear not yet approved SF
- Weeland Rd, Kellingley 37acres SF not yet approved
- Norden's Barn Farm, South Milford 61.23acres SF not yet approved
- Willow Barn, Manor Rd, Tadcaster permitted SF not sure of area but 80 panels (4 high x 20wide)
- Manor Farm, Skipwith Rd, Escrick 201.14acres unknown status SF
- Ash Row Farm, Bishopdyke Rd, Sherborne SF 25.45acres permitted
- Hayton House North Aberford SF & BESS 248.49acres EIA required
- Henwick Hall Farm, Burn SF 70.42acres status unknown
- Scrombeck Farm Stapleton, Pontefract SF 271.8acres unknown status