

The 7000 Acres Group

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**The Planning Inspectorate
The Square
Temple Quay
Bristol
BS1 6PN**

18th October 2024

Dear Sirs

Tillbridge Solar Project - Requests for Issue Specific Hearings

Further to the 7000 Acres Group request for an Issue Specific Hearing in relation to Health and Wellbeing at the Preliminary Meeting on 15th October 2024, please see written evidence attached and reasoning behind our request for your information in this regard.

During the Open Floor Hearing 1, interested parties showed the genuine emotional turmoil experienced and created by these proposals. This portrayal is, we believe, just the 'tip of the iceberg'. We are expecting an epidemic of health and mental health issues because of these NSIP solar schemes.

In addition to the above, I believe we touched on an Issue Specific Hearing in relation to Energy. If this was not fully expressed, I write to request that such a hearing is allowed. Our reasoning is that the delivery of energy as submitted by the Applicant lacks any meaningful contribution to energy production or decarbonisation and as such strikes at the core purpose of these proposals. We respectfully ask that the Applicants evidence in this regard is thoroughly examined and to that effect ask that our energy experts (who collectively have approximately 80 years of experience within the Energy Industry at senior levels) are given the opportunity along with the Local Authorities and other Statutory Bodies to test the Applicants claims regarding energy for the benefit of the Examining Authority and the Examination as a whole.

Yours sincerely

Signed J Allen
On behalf of 7000 Acres

We are requesting of this ExA to include a special hearing on health and wellbeing for the following reasons:

- We believe that the Chapter 11 on Human Health and Wellbeing has been compiled through a desk top review. We feel that this does not highlight the issues around this complicated subject particularly to the area affected by this project. A deep dive local review is what is necessary to understand the complex issues communities will face particularly around the 60-year period which has very little around this aspect.
- We believe experts are necessary to advise the examiners and we feel the applicant does not have the necessary capability to provide a balanced opinion around this subject.
- This document should have been outsourced to experts who would have the necessary skills to obtain data beyond the desk top review to highlight issues and inform the examiner. Their own guidelines recommend an environmental health expert. We would argue that our local NHS and public health have relevant data necessary to inform this examination.
- The initial scoping document was sent to the then Lincolnshire CCG, but nothing was highlighted to them that this forms part of four NSIP applications within a six-mile radius of Gainsborough, a town which has some of the worst deprivation in England. Without this knowledge, scrutiny by the local Statutory Bodies did not take place, nor was it escalated, something we feel was poor diligence on the applicant's part.
- The Equality Impact Assessment is significantly lacking, especially around deep dive local data to inform the examiner on how this scheme will impact on communities with potential issues around health inequality. Again, this was a desktop review. This scheme may widen health inequalities, and therefore local experts need to be involved to inform the ExA. One requirement is full engagement with people with protected characteristics, inclusion health and vulnerable groups. No HEAT (Health Equity Assessment Tool) has been completed, which we feel should form part of this process.
- We requested qualitative surveys to be carried out to assess health impacts on affected communities. This was ignored. We think this is crucial especially now that there is a sequential cumulative effect to be considered with the Tillbridge scheme.
- We have also previously requested that a full Health Impact Assessment be carried out and to include our local public health who have been totally ignored in this process. The more the schemes, the more concentrated they are, the more issues around health and wellbeing as part of the cumulative effect. This is a real concern. We argue that none of the schemes should have been given the go ahead without this. You the ExA have stated clearly you will be looking at the cumulative impact. Therefore, we believe Health and Wellbeing should be considered as a separate issue.
- 7000 Acres would be happy to advise and guide the ExA as to the important issues that we feel should be included as part of that process. We would also be happy to advise on the local experts.