

It's difficult to convey to others who perhaps don't live in the countryside the depth of connection and emotion attached to the area we live in, within this rural district of West Lindsey. Like many others, I have a strong family connection to the area going back many generations. Perhaps, some may think these aspects, such as emotional connections aren't important, but they are wrong. It is how we know where we belong. Our sense of community, place and identity. Cultural, social, historical identity are important and can be measured in sociological terms. Therefore, these aspects are evidence which the Examining Authority need to consider.

The Tillbridge Solar Project threatens our existence in this area. I do not exaggerate as who would want to live here if all these solar schemes go ahead? As we know two solar NSIP's (so far) have been granted by the Secretary of State. How can we go on living here and having a safe, healthy and enjoyable life if 13,000 acres of solar industry is on our doorstep? The West Lindsey District of Lincolnshire will radically and materially change in character from a rural, agricultural landscape and way of life to an energy landscape, with associated equipment, industry, construction and movement on a monumental scale. The countryside in this area will be urbanised. The contrast from rural to industry in this open countryside setting cannot be starker. Instead of hearing the birds and observing and enjoying the many colours of the landscape throughout the seasons with the patchwork of fields, crops, woodland, hedgerows and large skies we will see and experience seas of grey and black solar panels, glinting glass, metal, CCTV, metal fencing, battery stations, sub-stations, containers, workstations, security lighting and guards etc. The degree of rapid change is extreme.

The Tillbridge Solar Project in their Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment state that the main site of the scheme cannot be mitigated due to the open and elevated views from The Lincoln Cliff, across the Till Vale. The potential harms to the landscape are significant. The site is not suitable for this scheme. The long-distanced views over the Till Vale and beyond are glorious and timeless.

My concerns do not only relate to home. I am aware that there are links between the [REDACTED] and the supply of solar panels and materials to the solar schemes in the UK. Can the Applicant for the Tillbridge Solar Project state that no materials and goods for this scheme are linked with forced labour? The Applicant may argue that this issue is not relevant to the Examination of the Tillbridge Solar Project, however, they would be wrong. It is highly relevant to know the source, labour practices, human rights violations and work practices which are being carried out to supply solar materials for this proposed NSIP. It is a valid and material question for the Examining Authority and all Interested Parties to ask and be able to understand. The scale, harm and impact in these terms cannot be dismissed. Also, the Government's responsibilities in not contributing to these practices are significant. This grave matter is discussed in the research paper, *In Broad Daylight, Uyghur Forced Labour and Global Solar Supply Chains* by Laura T. Murphy & Nyrola Elima, (May 2021) from the Helena Kennedy Centre for International Justice at Sheffield Hallam University.

Along with above issues, I do think and believe that we have reached a point where we, the interested parties, the landscape, the wildlife and the communities cannot be expected to take anymore of this onslaught of solar NSIP proposals in the district. The potential cumulative impact of four solar NSIP schemes in a six-mile radius is beyond all reason. The impact on our mental health and wellbeing will be significant and long lasting. An Issue Specific Hearing on this issue is necessary.

Lastly, I believe the harm caused by this proposed development to the area and all those involved both near and far clearly outweighs any perceived benefits.