

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Tillbridge Solar Project](#)
Subject: Interested Party Reference number: 20049176 - deadline 2
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Having reviewed the relevant representations, including those submitted by 7000 Acres, I support all of the statements objecting to the scheme. 7000 Acres is a group I follow and they are doing an excellent job of keeping the community informed about the proposals. The statements they have made are factual and I wholeheartedly agree with their thoughts and feelings on the project.

Summary of Key Concerns:

Impact on Landscape and Community:

I strongly object to this project as this will be a huge blight on the countryside in which I live. I choose to reside in the countryside for the simple reason it gives me a feeling of space and I enjoy the natural beauty. The visual impact of this project will be huge, turning this in to an industrial area. I do not want to be surrounded by a sea of glass, metal, prison like security fences, cctv, battery storage containers as far as the eye can see. Currently I get to enjoy the countryside views when driving, when walking, when looking out of my windows, which has a positive effect on my [REDACTED]. Solar projects will change the whole character of the area. Every journey I take I will see solar fields. Public rights of way across fields will be affected visually, if they still remain at all. This is just 1 of 4 very large projects planned in very close proximity to each other, totalling 10,000 acres, which will engulf many small villages on multiple sides. It is quite clear some of these solar companies are working together, and two proposals are coming from the same company and therefore should be examined as one huge project. The amount of land proposed for these four project is vast, literally stretching Saxilby in the South, Aisby in the North, Glentworth in the East and Knaith Park in the West. Approximately 15 miles North to South and 8 miles East to West. I think we may be up to 14 proposals in Lincolnshire now which makes me feel as though we are being unfairly targeted.

I regularly see friends post photos on Facebook from their walks in our local countryside, with views stretching for miles across green fields. I doubt they would get such enjoyment from walking past acres of solar panels. Not to mention the glare and noise. People take these walks for their health and mental well-being and the healing properties of walking in the countryside. Doctors prescribe walks for wellbeing. A solar farm will create the opposite for many; anxiety, stress and depression.

Land Use and Food Security:

Lincolnshire is a county known for its agriculture and grows more wheat and potatoes than anywhere else in the UK, so in a time of food shortage, uncertainty and sky rocketing prices leaving many people unable to afford food this seems hugely irresponsible. Fields should be for crop growing and these projects will mean a loss of productive farmland.

Economic and Social Impact:

Lincoln is an historical city which attracts thousands of tourists every year. The

surrounding green countryside is no doubt another draw that brings people to the area. Will they want to visit an industrialised area with cliff views ruined by miles of solar panels? The far reaching view to and from the cliff road, the B1398, will be completely destroyed. I noticed when looking on Rightmove recently at houses for sale in the area around Saxilby and Sturton by Stow that a lot of estate agents listings had photos of the views out of the windows, showing lovely open green fields so I think it's fair to say that estate agents consider this a selling point and a marketable feature when listing a property and a contributing factor to the listing price. If those views were fields full of solar panels I doubt the estate agents would be using those photos and it will no doubt impact on house prices.

Infrastructure and Safety:

Proximity of panels and battery storage to primary schools and houses is unsafe. These batteries are known to catch fire. We are seeing more and more reports on the news about lithium batteries bursting into flames.

What about disposal of these panels at the end of their life? They are not fully recyclable. There is always a promise that land will be returned to its original state but I don't believe this to be true. If that was the case disused power stations, coal mines would all be fields again. As these kind of sites still remain as they are, why can't they be used for the solar projects instead of destroying another area of good quality land and countryside.

What about the years of traffic on narrow country roads. Not only will this be a huge inconvenience to residents but the roads are not suitable for the number of HGV's that will be involved.

Environmental Concerns:

Wildlife routes will be affected. There will loss of natural habitat for a wide range of species. I don't believe grass and or other plants will be able to grow underneath the vast area of panels. The mention of grazing sheep is purely a marketing tactic.

Britain's native wildlife species have declined dramatically over the past 50 years. Creating safe habitats for wildlife to live, shelter and breed has never been more important. There is a complete lack of consideration to the wildlife that inhabit these hedgerows. What will happen to the nesting birds, hibernating hedgehogs, dormice and other small mammals, as well as insects like beetles and butterflies. Many species use hedgerows for food such as leaves, flowers, berries, insects or small mammals. Some species rely on hedgerows as shelter from predators or the elements whilst out foraging. Birds rely on berries in hedgerows for food in winter. Hedgerows criss-cross the country, enabling wildlife to move about the landscape. They consequently connect populations that would otherwise be isolated and vulnerable. Bats use hedgerows as both feeding sites and flight paths for commuting between their roosts and other suitable foraging sites. Butterflies and other flying insects take advantage of the shelter hedges provide when in flight. The People's Trust for Endangered Species states over 500 plant species, 60 species of nesting bird, many hundreds of invertebrates and almost all of our native small mammal species have been recorded as being supported by hedgerows. As many as 16 of the 19 birds included in the Farmland Bird Index are associated with hedgerows, while 10 of these indicator species use hedgerows as a primary habitat. For more information read

I struggle to get my head around this dichotomy of supposedly making the world more green, yet removing natural habitats for animals and destroying thousands of acres of green space.

Alternative Renewable Energy Solutions:

I am not against solar as an energy source I just believe it should be in the correct place. There is currently a new build housing development in the village of Marton, which is building solar panels into the roofs of the new properties. The government estimates there are 250,000 hectares of south-facing, industrial roof space across the country. Please tell me why these solar projects cannot be located on brownfield sites, warehouse rooftops, new housing developments rooftops, the old power station sites which they intend to connect to?

There should be funding, incentives, help to buy, long term payback schemes and I'm sure more people would then be inclined to put solar panels on their homes and businesses. The energy companies putting these solar park proposals forward could even install them on residential rooftops for free. They are paying landowners to rent their land. If they offered free solar panels on my roof I would most certainly take it.

I have seen other countries such as France building solar panel roofs over ground level car parks with all the cars being undercover providing shade and the roof being an entire bank of solar panels. I have seen them along the sides of motorways, creating a covered cycle path. Why is the UK the last to embrace more innovative solutions. It's all about money that's why. [REDACTED] in Crewe, photos attached, has used solar panels at its factory for over 10 years. With a total area of 60,911 m² – equal to nine football pitches, able to generate 10 MW of power in total – enough to power 2,370 homes per year and capable of delivering up to 75 per cent of the plant's daytime electrical demand on average and can peak at 100 per cent. It is clear to see there are other options for renewable energy! We need to protect our farmland and green spaces now and for future generations.

Sincerely,
Helen Mitchell