

Dear Mr Ely

Please see my response to ExA 2nd set of questions:

Q2.2.1 and Q2.2.2

I have great concern that ecological impacts are not being addressed in any meaningful way. There are conflicts within the baseline reports as detailed below:

“Barn Owl”

EN010142-000271-6.2%20Appndx%209-8%20Baseline%20Report%20for%20Non-Breeding%20Birds.pdf

There has been a concentrated effort to enable Barn Owls to increase their population with the installation of Barn Owl breeding boxes along the length of the [REDACTED], Lincolnshire. These have been successful and Barn Owls have been noted breeding in the locations where boxes have been installed. Adult Owls have been observed hunting to feed their young in the immediate vicinity of [REDACTED]. The inclusion of Barn Owl in the non-breeding birds report is incorrect.

There is, again, no mention of Swans in any documentation regarding watercourses. They should be classed as one of the ground nesting birds which will be subject to harm. This should be addressed.

There are many red listed species in the proposed area which Tillbridge Solar wish to develop. There seems to be little mitigation proposed, save that the birds will probably return once construction is finished. This is a simplistic approach and our red listed species deserve a better response. The species at risk for this location can be found on the DEFRA ‘Magic Map’.

“9.4.36 In assigning values to species populations, it is important to take into account the status of the species in terms of any legal protection. However, it is also important to consider other factors such as its distribution, rarity, population trends and the size of the population which would be affected.”

EN010142-000401-6.1%20Chapter%209%20Ecology%20and%20Nature%20Conservation.pdf

There is no mention of the large [REDACTED] population which is commonly observed throughout the 4 solar park sites (Tillbridge, Cottam, West Burton and Gate Burton).

Since [REDACTED] are not taken into consideration within the ecological report there is a distinct lack of knowledge not only of the size and distribution of population but the direct impact that restrictions placed upon the [REDACTED] will have to the surrounding areas. Fencing off large tracts of land (especially in combination with the other 3 solar sites) will have a consequence of increasing density in nearby areas. This will inevitably lead to more conflict simply by funnelling the [REDACTED] towards highways. The result will lead to more fatalities of [REDACTED] (and persons travelling within vehicles). There does not appear to be any mitigation proposed.

“9.4.47 A significant effect is an effect that is sufficiently important to require assessment and reporting so that the decision maker is adequately informed of the

environmental consequences of permitting a project. In broad terms, significant effects encompass impacts on structure and function of defined sites, habitats or ecosystems and the conservation status of habitats and species (including extent, abundance and distribution)”.

EN010142-000401-6.1%20Chapter%209%20Ecology%20and%20Nature%20Conservation.pdf

9.4.47 does not account for redistribution of deer or swans.

There is a population of breeding swans on [REDACTED]. They use the river and surrounding areas. They are commonly observed in fields during the winter months. There is no mention of swans in any ecological reports.

Swans are known to have a distinct lack of visual acuity (they commonly fly into overhead electricity wires). The glint and glare assessments only make reference to the potential impacts of sun – there is no reference to moonlight.

Swans are at increased risk of harm due to misinterpretation of a swathe of solar panels which appear to be a body of water.

This site combined with Cottam, West Burton and Gate Burton will have a visual detriment for migratory birds. The migratory corridor for many larger bird populations (swans, geese and duck etc) towards the Fens or Humber wetlands has not been addressed.

“Several studies have shown that solar PV panels (as opposed to Concentrated Solar Power (CSP)) have similar reflectance characteristics to water” (EN010142-000302-6.2%20Appndx%2017-2%20Glint%20and%20Glare%20Assessment.pdf)

Since swans (or duck and geese) are not mentioned in any documentation, no risk has been identified or any mitigation proposed. This needs urgent remedy.

Swans and deer are not accounted for in any ecological sense by Tillbridge solar although the impact to each will be enormous.

I would urge a detailed assessment along a proposal for mitigation measures which can be implemented and maintained for the lifetime of the site.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]