

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Tilbridge Solar Project](#)
Subject: Interested party statement
Date: 01 April 2025 20:30:13

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Dear sir/madam

I write in reference to the Tilbridge Solar Development in West Lindsey, Lincolnshire.

Interested Party Reference number: 20049285

My wife and I moved to the small rural village of Glentworth just under 2 years ago moving from our home county of Kent, leaving all our friends and family to move for a better life. Kent was once green and lovely and although parts of it still are the landscape has become filled with houses and infrastructure that I have seen greatly increase and take over the countryside. Towns and villages now join each other with no green in between and this has happened within my lifetime. House prices in rural Kent are out of most peoples reach forcing most of us to live in the large towns where houses are slightly more affordable, but still amongst the highest in the country outside of London. After spending many family holidays in the countryside here and abroad, I was desperate to have a more rural way of living as after nearly 40 years living in big towns my mental health was suffering significantly. My [REDACTED] meant I was increasingly struggling with the stress exacerbated by daily impact of the weight of traffic, noise, traffic jams and pollution in our town; the levels of pollution in our town were some of the worst in the county and our road the worst in the town.

During the Covid pandemic lockdowns and a preceding [REDACTED], we came to the realisation that we couldn't live in the way we were anymore, so decided to leave our home county in search of something we could afford and to live in a rural landscape, reaping all the benefits that nature has to offer. When we found our house in 2023 we couldn't believe that we could afford something situated somewhere so beautiful. Our garden looks out at our far reaching views, to the extent that we can see Lincoln Cathedral from our front door. After having no view like this for 40 years was simply amazing. Both of us have felt the effects of living this way greatly improve our mental health and we feel so lucky to have made the move and live where we now do.

If this industrial solar installation is allowed to proceed then all of that will be taken away. With Cottam already approved to the front of us and then Tilbridge to the back and side, we will be surrounded and feel imprisoned once again within our home. Instead of rows and rows of houses it will instead be rows and rows of glass from almost all our windows, gone will be the green we love and that instantly brings calm to us every day.

The road outside our house is the tiny road of Kexby Road. Wide enough for a single average size vehicle it is in no way suitable for large traffic. The very infrequent passing traffic use our driveway to pull aside to let oncoming farm vehicles, cyclists, and equestrians pass as there are very few passing places. The

road slightly further down from us is already not in a poor state of repair with the little amount of traffic that uses it now, let alone what it will be like with HGVs and heavy flow of work related traffic due to construction works.

Our concerns continue when we consider the noise. At the moment it is incredibly peaceful here, another reason for our move as in the town we constantly heard emergency service sirens and road noise in our old home. Here it is the sounds of nature that predominate, and it is so wonderful for our mental health. It is finally having this peace and quiet that has made such a significant difference to me as, due to my [REDACTED], I am significantly more sensitive to noise and find the noise of traffic and construction work very damaging to my mental health.

My wife and I love living surrounded by nature and we are accurately aware that these plans will cause significant and irreparable damage to that. We are concerned for damage to and loss of habitat that will impact the crested newts, bats, and owls we have in our area, along with many other species of wildlife, we regularly get deer in the back field and hedgehogs in our gardens.

We strongly believe that the amount of land being taken in this small is significantly out of proportion and should Tilbridge go forward would be grossly unfair for the rural communities here to have to take so many large scale industrial solar installations, we will not be able to drive anywhere without encountering them and this will lead to damaging mental health issues for the residents of those communities. We also have great concerns about the safety of the batteries, only yesterday (31/03/25) another huge fire has broken out at a BESS site in Gloucestershire, these batteries aren't being extinguisher, they have to be left to burn, increasing the risks to damage to the local environment and another worry and mental health issue for all of us that it will affect.

Finally I should like to comment on the fact that Tilbridge have no detailed plan on how to dispose of these panels once their lifespan is done. When questioned at a meeting in Hemswell, a representative of Tilbridge confirmed that they don't know what they will do with them, and that they will "follow best practice" at the time. Through my work in the electrical industry I can state with certainty there is extremely limited provision for the recycling of solar panels and they will likely be sent to landfill or to another country to be disposed of. This is by no means an environmentally friendly product and at this scale the waste will be astronomical.

John Rapley

[REDACTED]