

Hearing Transcript

Project:	Springwell Solar Farm
Hearing:	Open Floor Hearing 1 (OFH1) - Part 1
Date:	07 May 2025

Please note: This document is intended to assist Interested Parties.

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The video recording published on the Planning Inspectorate project page is the primary record of the hearing.

FULL TRANSCRIPT (with timecode)

00:00:06:02 - 00:00:36:27

It's now 2 p.m. and time for this hearing to begin. I would like to welcome you all to this open floor hearing for the Springwell Solar Farm project. Can I just confirm that everyone can hear me clearly, including at the back? Yes. Can I also confirm with the case manager, Miss Wetherby, that the live streaming and recording of this event has commenced? Thank you. My name is Ben North. Over. I am a Chartered architect, and I have been appointed by the Secretary of State to be a member of the panel to examine this application.

00:00:37:05 - 00:00:40:11

I am now going to ask the other panel member to introduce himself.

00:00:41:00 - 00:00:51:04

Good afternoon. My name is Jonathan Manning. I'm a planning inspector and a chartered planner, and I've been appointed by the Secretary of State to be the lead member of the panel to examine the application.

00:00:51:28 - 00:01:35:14

Thank you. Together, we constitute the examining authority for this application. I'll now deal with a few housekeeping matters for those attending in person. Can everyone please set all devices and phones to silent? The toilets are back out of this room close to the main entrance. The ladies toilets are in the bar area to the left and the gents are on the right. If you head back towards the main entrance. There are no plans fire drills this afternoon, so it will be the real deal if the alarm sounds and if the fire is behind us, behind us, the examining authority, then we will all need to exit through the main entrance behind yourselves and convene in the area.

00:01:36:05 - 00:01:48:11

Convene in the open space next to the Greggs shop. If the fire is at the front of the building. We exit through the door behind us, um, and again convene at the same spot.

00:01:50:06 - 00:02:07:16

Today's hearing is being undertaken in a hybrid way, meaning some of you are present with us at the hearing venue and some of you are joining us virtually using Microsoft Teams. We will make sure that, however you have decided to attend today, you'll be given a fair opportunity to participate.

00:02:09:18 - 00:02:30:12

A recording of today's hearing will be made available on the Springwell Solar Farm Project section of the National Infrastructure Planning website, as soon as practicable after the hearing has finished. With this in mind, please ensure that you speak clearly into the microphone stating your name and who you are representing each time you speak.

00:02:32:13 - 00:03:07:19

A digital recording of the hearing will be made available on the project web page as soon as practicable after the close of hearings. The recording allows any member of the public who is interested in the application and the examination to find out what has been discussed at the hearing. As the recordings are retained and published, they form a public record that can contain personal information to which the UK General Data Protection Regulation applies. Participants must do their best to avoid providing any information which should otherwise be kept private and confidential.

00:03:08:01 - 00:03:42:17

If there is a need to refer to such information, it should be in written form, although this will also be published. Personal and private content. Content can be redacted or removed before it's made publicly available. Any person who is unclear on this point could ask the case team for guidance before they place personal and private information into the public domain. A link to the planning Inspectorate's Privacy Notice was published with the notification of this hearing. Please speak to the case manager, Miss Wetherby if you have any questions about this.

00:03:44:24 - 00:04:13:02

Moving to item two of the agenda. The purpose of the hearing. I'll briefly explain the purpose of this open floor hearing. Open floor hearing. So your opportunity to raise anything directly to the examining authority that is important and relevant and that you think we should know about and consider. They are not about a particular location or topic. The topic of your representations about the proposals is therefore up to yourself.

00:04:14:18 - 00:04:42:14

Due to the large number of parties wishing to speak today, we will be setting a time limit of five minutes per person and ten minutes for organizations or groups. When you are speaking, we will indicate to you when you have about a minute left. I appreciate that there might be strong feelings of agreement with representations made, but can I ask attendees to refrain from applauding to ensure a smooth running of the afternoon?

00:04:44:07 - 00:05:14:00

Once you have spoken, the panel may wish to ask you questions or in the interest of time, the panel may include a written question for you at XQ1. Finally, the applicant will be given an opportunity to respond to any matters raised. Once all speakers have been heard, either orally today or in writing by deadline one. I'll now pass over to R. Yeah. Are there any questions on the on the process of the hearing today?

00:05:17:12 - 00:05:19:05

No. Any online?

00:05:21:04 - 00:05:26:06

No. Thank you. In that case, I'll hand over to Mr. Manning for agenda item three.

00:05:26:15 - 00:06:01:18

Okay. Just before I do, move on to agenda item three and more, as a general point, um, just just to mention that, um, outside of the hearings, all contact must be done through the case team. Uh, please

don't approach us individually. Um, because I'm sure you can understand, for the interests of openness and impartiality, we can't have private conversations with, um, single parties for obvious reasons. So, um, please bear that in mind. Thank you. Okay, we'll move on to agenda item three, which is the representations from named interested parties.

00:06:02:24 - 00:06:20:06

Um, I will now invite, uh, representations, uh, to, uh, in the notice of the, uh, in the order of the agenda. Um, so I believe our first attendee isn't now coming. So the first is Scott walking Kirkby Greene Parish Council, Mr. Williams.

00:06:22:09 - 00:06:29:15

And I believe you'll stay there for another ten minutes for the Springvale Solar Action Group, is that correct? Yes. Thank you.

00:06:33:06 - 00:06:38:14

Okay, we'll give you a warning at about a minute before the end of your time. Just so you're aware. Okay. Thank you.

00:06:43:12 - 00:07:25:11

Good afternoon. My name is Mark Williams. I'm the chairman of Scotland and Kirkby Green. Parish council and I'm representing our wonderful community. As you will have seen by the number of people who registered to be interested parties, the overwhelming feeling in this community is that Springwell Solar is the wrong solution in the wrong place. Over the last 18 months, we have constantly sought the views of our community and the overwhelming majority are totally against this proposed solar factory. I'm here today because our community is under threat and it is time we called it out for what it is an attack on the best farmland out our community and the environment by speculators.

00:07:25:27 - 00:07:56:28

Over the next few days you will hear many passionate views against it. There will undoubtedly be some repetition, but all of these voices should be heard. Solar factories are being pushed onto our doorstep by developers who don't care about our community or the wider county of Lincolnshire. They care about lining their own pockets. They dress it up with words like green energy, sustainability, biodiversity, net gain. But make no mistake, there is nothing more than industrialization of the countryside.

00:07:57:01 - 00:08:31:22

Pure and simple. It is also very clear that the current owners of Blankley Estates have turned their backs on farming and their reputation for being good landowners. The farmland is some of the best in Britain. In fact, some of the best in the world. An estate with an extremely rich history. Mr.. Mr. Billy Parker and his son Eric worked this land, creating the current estate in the last few years. The estate was successful in gaining a Defra grant to help with irrigation. There are farms across the UK who would give their right arm to have the irrigation provided to the estates.

00:08:32:04 - 00:09:02:09

Is the planning inspector and the government going to allow EDF and the current farm management to destroy over 100 years of successful farming? Once these fields are carpeted under glass and steel. We won't get them back. At a time when food security is more critical than ever. We should be growing crops, not growing profits for big corporations. There are suggestions. At the end of 40 years, the land will be handed back to agriculture. I think we all know this is nonsense.

00:09:02:16 - 00:09:33:15

The developers can't demonstrate a single site where this has happened. However, there are many sites across the world that have been left blighted by industry and will never be decontaminated and returned to their original state. In the coming days, there will be evidence put forward that highlight quite clearly the potential damage to the land. A key point we would like to raise is what bonds or insurances will be put in place to cover decommissioning, and any other disasters that occur due to this development in the 40 year life cycle.

00:09:33:24 - 00:10:04:10

It is all. It is also recognised that the batteries will need to be replaced several times and panels too. What will happen to this hazardous waste. On the surface, solar energy is portrayed as a clean, green solution. The reality is very different. As we are all aware, the majority of solar panels and much of the equipment for the batteries comes from China and mining in Africa. EDF have been pushed to disclose where the panels and other materials come from. They have declined to comment.

00:10:04:24 - 00:10:36:03

EDF renewables has historically worked with large Chinese panel manufacturing companies like Longy, Jarre Solar, Trina Solar and Canadian Solar, many with suspected links to forced labour camps. In 2025, we should be better than this. No products should be sourced from markets where slave labour is prevalent. This application is a scar on the area. It will destroy a significant amount of prime farmland. It will forever spoil the tranquil landscape that so many of us enjoy.

00:10:36:11 - 00:11:08:26

It will have a significant impact on many people's wellbeing. I would like to address a few key points. The cumulative effects. We support schemes that promote a drive to greener future. This and the other proposed schemes in this area do nothing to support the environment or enrich our lives. Whilst the inspector is only examining springwell. It is incumbent on the planning team to not to not consider this application in isolation within a very small radius. There are a number of biomass facilities more planned.

00:11:08:28 - 00:11:40:17

There are several small solar sites already in operation, one in CIP solar facility already granted in Fen. Three more including Foss Green Ltd and Springwell in the planning phase. Several large best sites, one associated with Springwell and at least three three others also in the planning phase. And finally a National Grid substation at the planning phase. This will result in the decimation of thousands of acres of prime farmland, and will turn a beautiful landscape into an industrial complex.

00:11:40:29 - 00:12:15:14

The planning inspector must take on board the cumulative effects of all these applications on Norfolk, Estevan and the wider Lincolnshire county. A county that relies heavily on agriculture and tourism. If

consent is given, the impact on both will be devastating. Approximately 9% of farmland will be lost battery storage and the rest of the aquifer. EDF proposed a large Bess this. This facility will reside above a primary aquifer and within a reasonable proximity to our AfDB and the high powered fuel line known as CGL Pipeline System.

00:12:15:28 - 00:12:50:23

Once again, EDF are being very vague on detail using the Rochdale Envelope principle to avoid scrutiny. We don't need to investigate the annals of history to see the impacts of best fires. There are no details in this application that mitigate the real risk we will face. Even the minimal detail provided by EDF is an attempt to downplay any potential risk, for example, enough water to suppress a fire for four hours. The evidence of best fires show fires lasting significantly longer than four hours for days to several weeks.

00:12:51:24 - 00:13:27:21

There's a real risk of best contaminating the aquifer. This would lead to serious groundwater contamination. Contamination of the aquifer would be a permanent and very long lasting cleanup of the aquifer would be extremely expensive. Are EDF guaranteeing to do this? Land, soils and groundwater. We are really concerned around two main factors that need addressing. PFAS are otherwise known as forever toxins. This is documented. There is documented evidence that chemicals leach from solar panels with 1.5 million panels proposed.

00:13:27:23 - 00:14:03:13

This has the potential to create significant amounts of contamination. This can't just be brushed aside by EDF. ADF, can they provide guarantees that there will be zero contamination on the land flooding during periods of rainfall? The water table rises quickly, causing flooding issues in the village. The impact of millions of glass panels, the impact of the piling into the ground with a real risk of damaging old clay drainage pipes. The the alteration of drainage with concrete and hard core significantly increases the risk of the village flooding.

00:14:03:20 - 00:14:41:09

We have been. We have seen absolutely no acknowledgement of this or detailed mitigation. Will EDF take responsibility for properties being flooded? Landscape and visual impact. There is no reasonable person who can say this development won't have a devastating impact on the landscape. The steeples and stepping out walks will be destroyed. This will no longer be a beautiful countryside. It will be an industrial complex. The impact on the community's wellbeing will be significant community benefit if this application and the other applications that are coming quick and fast are foolishly granted.

00:14:41:17 - 00:15:11:23

Then this area will be a construction site for a minimum of ten years. There will be traffic, noise, dust impacting so many people. Whilst we don't want the application as a parish, we need to consider what benefits could we negotiate for our community? The application the applicant absolutely froze when we suggested free electricity for every house within the catchment. For the lifetime of this development, they feel this would be an unreasonable request.

00:15:12:11 - 00:15:16:00

Is it really when you consider the damage?

00:15:27:29 - 00:15:38:09

The applicant suggests a community benefit Fund, which would provide £400 per megawatt of installed capacity for communities to spend on local projects.

00:15:43:14 - 00:15:52:24

Our first comment is this should figure should be considered considerably larger and it should be managed directly by the community. It should also be index linked.

00:15:52:26 - 00:15:53:29

About a minute left.

00:15:54:14 - 00:16:28:03

Payable from this point. From the point the first shovel enters the ground. We should administer this for our community benefit. Thank you for taking the time to listen and to the concerns of the parish council. Let me wrap up by saying this is not a harmless development. It will tear up the landscape, disrupt wildlife habitats, and replace living fields with dead panels. It makes no sense to cover up fertile farmland with energy projects that could easily be placed on rooftops, brownfield sites and less sensitive land.

00:16:28:13 - 00:16:57:02

The truth is simple solar factories in Lincolnshire are not about saving the planet. They're about exploiting cheap land, exploiting weak planning laws, and enabling greedy landowners to make money. Let's be clear Lincolnshire's strength is in its land, its food and its beauty. We should protect it fiercely, fearlessly, for ourselves, for future generations, and for the nation. Thank you. Any questions?

00:16:57:21 - 00:17:10:00

Okay. Thank you very much, Mr. Williams, on behalf of the parish council. Okay. Thank you. If you'd like to now begin with your ten minutes in relation to the the action Group. Thank you.

00:17:15:06 - 00:17:16:26

I just grab a drink of water.

00:17:16:28 - 00:17:18:03

Absolutely. Please do.

00:17:28:23 - 00:17:29:12

Sorry.

00:17:30:19 - 00:17:33:01

That's okay. No problem. When you're ready. Thank you.

00:17:34:03 - 00:18:05:19

Again. Mark Williams, representing Springwell sole action group. I am joined by various members of the group, but also Charles Kerrigan is present as well and may assist if there are any questions. Our

community is seriously under threat. We are surrounded by high grade irrigated land. Under no circumstances should the government, EDF or Blanc Estates be allowed to trash this in the name of net zero. What has become abundantly clear? Net zero targets are unachievable and are causing significant damage.

00:18:06:06 - 00:18:42:12

As a community, we embrace sensible, logical change to help the environment. This is neither. It is a scheme that ticks the climate change box and makes blanc estates and EDF a heap of money. Neither of these help with electric bills. In fact all we see are prices increasing EDF have guaranteed that the land will be returned to farming and the quality of the land would not be altered. So we would expect approximately 3500 acres to be returned as best, most versatile farm farmland with no contamination.

00:18:42:28 - 00:19:22:14

Whilst many of us are naive. We are not stupid. This land grab will turn 3500 acres of great farmland into a brownfield industrial complex with a significant amount of contamination from PFAS and heavy metals which leach from solar panels. Let alone the real risk of significant pollution caused by any best fires. This estate with rumoured historic links to the slave trade. In 2025, should not allow 3500 acres of this state the same estate to be covered in solar panels that emanate from China, with direct links to the forced labour camps.

00:19:23:04 - 00:19:58:22

The planning inspector should be pushing for an absolute transparent supply chain from EDF. What is their policy on modern day slavery? Key concerns. Cumulative effects. The number of proposed projects will decimate thousands of acres of prime farmland, transforming our beautiful landscape into an industrial complex. This site alone will have 1.5 million solar panels, approximately 1500 shipping containers, multiple substations, and a huge amount of steel and concrete.

00:19:59:22 - 00:20:37:09

Lincolnshire relies on agriculture and tourism. These projects will devastate will have devastating consequences for both. The loss of farmland will not only impact farmers but also allied trades. This development is likely to have a detrimental impact on local jobs. Additionally, the industrialisation of our landscape will deter tourists, leading to a decline in revenue. We also have a college of further education that provides young people with a pathway into agriculture. What? Agriculture? It will be destroyed by the ridiculous rush to net zero land, soils and groundwater.

00:20:37:18 - 00:21:11:16

Flooding is a real issue and it is well documented. There are old clay drainage pipes under the ground. The piping process is very likely to damage many of these. This would have a material impact on the flow of water. The impact of millions of glass panels will prevent rainwater being absorbed across a wide dispersed area. It will be funneled, causing more rapid runoff. In fact, when representatives visited a member of our group, he was compelled to educate them on the sheer volume of water that flows into culverts and drains in Skopje.

00:21:12:07 - 00:21:42:16

This is a major concern and we see no genuine mitigation plans again. Will EDF take responsibility for any properties being flooded. There is a strong and credible evidence that due to weather

conditions in the UK, the 1.5 million solar panels will degrade rapidly as they degrade forever. Toxins and heavy metals will leach into the soil. This contamination will render this land unfit for agricultural purposes. I want to touch on blanc estates and their irrigation application.

00:21:42:27 - 00:22:16:09

In 2012, the estates submitted a planning application to upgrade the irrigation of the estates land. The intention of the irrigation scheme was to facilitate the growing and production of high quality crops on the already high grade land. In particular, the irrigation project comprised the following key elements a water abstraction point on the River Witham, a water abstraction pumping station, two new storage reservoirs, water transfer pipelines, irrigation feeder pipelines, watercourse crossings, and hydrants for irrigation.

00:22:16:23 - 00:22:51:20

The estate claimed, then there would be no significant change to the landscape because of this scheme. Furthermore, in the most part, the overall project would not be visible being below or at ground level. This claim, of course, is totally in contrast to the abysmal planning that is about to happen with Springwell Solar, where everything will be above ground and highly visible. The application for irrigation was successful, and the estate was awarded with a Taxpayer Defra grant that were led to believe was in excess of £1.2 million.

00:22:52:06 - 00:23:25:12

The equivalent grant today would be nearer 2 million. We believe that if spring, if the Springwood project is approved, this would lead to the irrigation system being set aside for the duration of the of the existence of the solar farm and would be unserviceable in 30 years of inactivity. Not only is this a total waste of taxpayers money, but a waste of high quality land that has a first class irrigation system used to produce high quality crops. We have video evidence to show if you are keen to see that landscape and visual impact.

00:23:25:29 - 00:23:59:21

The steeples and Stepping Out walks are extensively used. If industrialization is permitted, then the planning inspector is in effect saying people and the wildlife don't matter and widespread destruction of the environment is the way to achieve net zero. There is no reasonable person who can say this development won't have a devastating impact on the landscape. We seriously can't allow the pursuit of money to ruin this area. We are blessed with migrating birds who rely on our countryside for food and breeding.

00:23:59:29 - 00:24:31:12

There is clear evidence that birds mistake panels for water and significant numbers are killed as they fly into them. Is this just another casualty of net zero? If planning is granted, we will be forced to walk through a fenced off solar alley with unsightly panels and substations, forced to listen to constant humming from the inverters and substation compounds, be watched over by CCTV cameras, light pollution and the decimation of the wildlife. It will be an industrial complex.

00:24:32:04 - 00:25:06:22

The impact on this community's wellbeing will be significant and it is already being felt the best and the aquifer the best will be located above a primary aquifer and near two vital Mod locations. We

don't need to look too far to see the impacts of best fires. Moss landing in the US, which has gone on fire six times. Cetera Energy in Essex and Carnegie Road in Liverpool. EDF will attempt to downplay these and will say trust them.

00:25:07:15 - 00:25:43:00

This cannot be a reasonable route through planning. We need 100% guarantees that no harm will be done to the environment, the aquifer and the communities if a fire were to occur. And I mean 100% guarantees a fire is likely, and those in the industry acknowledge this. The question is how big the incident will be and could it be managed? A fire would contaminate the aquifer, leading to groundwater contamination from hazardous materials, including heavy metals like lithium, cobalt, nickel and manganese.

00:25:43:15 - 00:26:22:27

Contamination of the aquifer would affect drinking water, agriculture, and ecosystems. Who will fix this? Our community are expected to sit back and trust EDF with our safety. Tell that to the people of Grenfell, Bhopal in India or those poisoned by PFAS from Teflon in the USA. Large corporations cannot be trusted. There needs to be real scrutiny throughout their this process. The certainty they certainly should not be allowed to use planning loopholes, such as the Rochdale envelope, to avoid providing details on what they are about to build in our community.

00:26:23:17 - 00:26:59:28

The grid connection Springwell has no connection to the to the grid. The planning inspector cannot grant permission to EDF to build this industrial industrial complex, with no legitimate means to connect to the grid. One minute it is relying on National Grid substation application being approved and this may not be consented to. Thank you once again for taking the time to listen to the concerns of the Springwell action Group. Let me conclude. Our group has worked tirelessly for the last two years to try and stop the Solar Spring Solar Industrial factory.

00:27:00:12 - 00:27:15:02

We are the little people that big corporations hate and feel they can trample on. Once these greedy corporations and landowners have run off with their millions. It will be the people living through this nightmare who must deal with the consequences. Thank you.

00:27:21:03 - 00:27:28:00

Thank you very much, Mr. Williams, for your contributions on behalf of both, both groups. It's greatly appreciated. Thank you.

00:27:28:24 - 00:27:29:19

Do you have any questions?

00:27:29:29 - 00:27:42:11

And so we're going to try not to ask questions now, just simply because we're trying to get the opportunity for everyone to speak. Um, so if we do have any they'll be within, um, written questions. Thank you.

00:27:45:12 - 00:28:03:23

Okay. Just before we move on to our next speaker, um, I'm being informed that there may be a request to sort of record proceedings that someone themselves. Um. Would anyone have any objections to being filmed by a member of the audience?

00:28:05:09 - 00:28:19:02

No. Okay. And that's absolutely fine with the examining authority. As long as it's not disruptive, then. Um, we're more than happy for you to do so. Thank you. Okay, uh, we'll move on to, uh, John Woodward, please. If you'd like to come forward.

00:29:00:27 - 00:29:22:27

Um, I will also just add, um, that if you obviously the timescales today are very tight for for people to get across everything that they'd like to. If you run out of time to say everything that you want to, you will be able to provide your full statement that you would have read in writing at the next deadline. So just to be clear on that. So, um, you see where that will have that opportunity to provide what you wanted to.

00:29:27:00 - 00:29:27:15

Let me see.

00:29:29:27 - 00:29:33:29

But if you're asking me my name, it is John Woodward.

00:29:34:01 - 00:29:34:18

Thank you.

00:29:34:23 - 00:29:47:00

I've been a resident in Scott Wick 41 years, and I'm here to speak about the proposed development. Should I now start?

00:29:47:14 - 00:29:50:15

Please share. Your five minutes will start when you're ready. Thank you very much.

00:29:50:18 - 00:29:52:05

I've got to get my glasses out.

00:29:52:07 - 00:29:52:26

That's okay.

00:29:55:05 - 00:29:58:06

You'll forgive a relatively old man.

00:29:58:21 - 00:30:12:09

Yeah. Would you like some water, Mr. Woodward? Could we sort that out for you. Miss Weatherby, I think there are some jugs and some glasses at the front. Whether we can put one on the table for speakers, that would be great. Thank you.

00:30:14:12 - 00:30:15:10

I will start now.

00:30:17:08 - 00:30:24:19

So we're just getting some water in case you'd like any. Um. But if not, then, um. Please feel free to start when you're ready.

00:30:40:00 - 00:30:45:16

Okay. Fantastic. Thank you. We'll give you a warning about a minute before the end of your time. Okay? Thank you.

00:30:46:25 - 00:30:57:27

Regarding the impact of the development on the historical significance, and also on the health and well-being of the local community,

00:30:59:26 - 00:31:10:12

I'm asking, would the examiner clarify what measures are needed to secure the existence of these two facilities?

00:31:13:04 - 00:31:46:09

Over centuries, successive owners of Blankley Estate have sought to preserve the well-being and prosperity of the community of Scott Wick and Kirkby Green. This is evidenced in the planning of tenants homes and the provision of green grass areas along the village beck for rest and grazing for the drovers who drive their flocks through the village to market.

00:31:48:18 - 00:31:55:22

The village was also allowed access to the farm tracks in the surrounding fields.

00:31:57:21 - 00:32:12:03

This policy, sometimes referred to as benevolent landlordism, is of significance in the history of the village and in the development of agriculture in England in general.

00:32:16:07 - 00:32:17:13

The community

00:32:18:29 - 00:32:45:20

has benefited from the continuing use of these tracks over a long time, right up to today for recreation and exercise, and this particularly in the area north of Scott, we can look at the green in what is called the central area of the development as proposed.

00:32:48:13 - 00:33:25:22

The use of these walkways by walkers, cyclists and riders also contributes significant benefits for the health and well-being of the local community and the many persons who avail themselves of this facility for their well-being, their health. And notably, of course, nowadays we recognize mental health which is obtained from this access to green areas.

00:33:27:24 - 00:33:28:23

And therefore.

00:33:31:06 - 00:33:44:28

It is of importance that these two factors are taken into account and properly guarded so that they can continue.

00:33:46:27 - 00:33:48:02

Thank you very much.

00:33:50:11 - 00:33:55:27

Okay. Thank you very much for your contributions and coming to see us this afternoon. Mr. Woodward. Thank you.

00:33:58:01 - 00:34:02:09

Yes. That's fine, thank you. Yes. Thank you very much for your contribution. Go back. Thank you.

00:34:06:19 - 00:34:07:08

Thank you.

00:34:13:18 - 00:34:18:03

Okay. Uh, our next speaker is Charles Kerrigan, please.

00:34:25:01 - 00:34:26:26

Okay. No problem at all. Thank you.

00:34:28:21 - 00:34:31:08

Okay. Uh, David Cox, please.

00:34:41:02 - 00:34:45:07

Good afternoon, David Cox. Uh, speaking for my own benefit.

00:34:45:17 - 00:34:48:21

Okay. Thank you very much. And, uh, your five minutes will start when you're ready.

00:34:48:23 - 00:35:23:26

All right. Uh, my opposition to Spring Wells Welles proposals, the use of good grade farmland, even grade C grade, is capable of producing high tonnage crops. And Lincolnshire is the breadbasket of the UK. Why important grain? Import grain when we can grow it in our fields here. Solar panels should be on rooftops, not on farmland. My other concerns are the national fuel pipelines.

00:35:24:20 - 00:35:55:00

Aviation jet fuel. A1 is fed via high pressure pipelines throughout this county. The excellent pipeline system carries fuel to the front line RAF Coningsby and Waddington bases in an eight inch pipe at 1100 P.s.i. It crosses Mhm. The B1202 at 3 a.m.

00:35:55:11 - 00:36:33:28

and the B1188 north of Scott Village, across fields to the north of Kirkby Green and within the borders spring well east. There's also the finer line up looked after by the British Pipeline Agency. This carries fuel from Immingham Docks to Burnsville depot at Hemel Hempstead in a ten inch 151 1500 psi pipe.

00:36:34:27 - 00:37:13:14

It passes to the east of Lincoln, following the A15 southwards, and will be within 500m of the proposed Springwell West site, with its substation and battery storage. From a Freedom of Information request, I made British Pipeline Agency state that they have not had any correspondence with Springwell Solar Farms, EDF renewables UK or EDF, but they have had searches within the area from third parties that could be working on their behalf.

00:37:14:12 - 00:37:43:04

British Pipeline Agency also state that the National Grid have requested information in September 2004, and their proposed site for the substation is a direct interaction with Springwell, and that the location is within 200m of the finish line. The examining authority have asked for Esso

00:37:44:26 - 00:37:54:05

from Excellent Pipeline Systems Limited, but no mention of British Pipeline Agency Limited or the Finer line.

00:37:56:22 - 00:38:44:06

My other area of concern are that the heavy traffic and construction in the vicinity of these pipelines could lead to damage and fracturing, leading to leak is just highly inflammable, highly flammable liquid. History shows that on Sunday the 11th December 2005, a safety valve failed at the Bruntsfield Oil depot, causing a series of explosions and fire engulfing 23 storage tanks, injuring 43 people, damaging buildings up to five miles away, and 2000 people had to be evacuated from their homes.

00:38:45:07 - 00:38:58:02

It actually closed the M1 motorway for five days, and while it was continuing to burn, the explosions were actually seen and heard in Lincolnshire, 70 miles away.

00:38:59:23 - 00:39:20:18

Recently, the Stena Immaculate at anchor of Withernsea, awaiting offloading of A1 jet fuel at Immingham, caused a marine maritime disaster after being struck and the resulting leakage of fuel and fire.

00:39:23:03 - 00:39:25:25

Anglian water stated that this area.

00:39:25:27 - 00:39:27:02

One minute remaining.

00:39:27:27 - 00:39:44:08

Anglian Water state that this area is a water scarce area as designated by the Environment Agency, and therefore has not got the capacity for firefighting. Should anything occur In that.

00:39:47:28 - 00:40:00:08

And finally, I would like to reiterate Doctor Caroline Johnson, the MP for Sleaford North Hykeham, her full list of reasons against the application. Thank you very much.

00:40:01:05 - 00:40:05:26

Okay. Thank you very much, Mr. Cox, for your representations to us this afternoon.

00:40:11:15 - 00:40:16:26

Okay. Next up is Caroline Johnson MP. If you're.

00:40:19:11 - 00:40:25:06

Potentially virtually. There we are. Thank you. Can you. Can you hear me? Okay.

00:40:25:21 - 00:40:27:05

I can hear you. Can you hear me?

00:40:27:09 - 00:40:32:21

Yes. Thank you. Yeah. Fantastic. Yeah. So your ten minutes will start when you're ready. Thank you.

00:40:33:03 - 00:41:08:22

Thank you. Sir. Thank you for inviting me to attend this open hearing today about Springwell Solar Farm. And to represent my constituents as a member of Parliament for Sleaford and in North Hykeham. I'm very grateful for the opportunity to appear online given the parliamentary business today. I'd also like to declare that my husband is a farmer locally and an agricultural contractor. Solar farm is actually one of several current energy applications within my constituency, but it's the largest, covering 4.94mi² or 3163 acres, or the equivalent of 2108 football pitches of farmland.

00:41:09:07 - 00:41:44:06

I transition to sustainable energy is, of course, important for large scale solar farms on good farmland are not the right solution. We should not approve every proposal that comes before us, particularly ones such as this, that would come at such a disproportionate cost to our land use strategy and to the local community. The proposed Springwell solar farm will be over twice the size of the nearby town of Sleaford, which is 2.3mi² and that has a population of nearly 1000, sorry, 19,800 per the 2021 census. The impact of this size of application will have on a productive agricultural land is stark.

00:41:44:13 - 00:42:20:13

It will be an industrial energy development on good quality farmland. According to the January 2025 planning statement, the vast majority of the order limit site is shown as grade two and or grade three on an ALC survey conducted in 2023. The report states that percentages are the best and most versatile land across the site. Calculated to date, show that 87.9% of the site is grade one, two, or

three. Grades one, two, and three a land are best and most versatile land in grade three B land, we should also remember, is good, productive farmland.

00:42:21:18 - 00:42:55:13

We cannot ignore the sheer amount of viable farmland that will be lost under this proposal, particularly at a time when our national security and land use strategy is so pertinent in a global context. In a written statement in May 2024, the previous government offered a further guidance on the use of BMV land for solar farms instead of food production. It explained how these competing priorities should be balanced, clarifying the policies set out in the NPS. Firstly, the starting position for developers should be to minimise the impact on best and most versatile land and use land in areas of poorer quality.

00:42:56:01 - 00:43:26:29

The decision makers should give due weight to the proposed use of BMV land when considering whether consent should be granted, and the government added that decision makers should not only consider the impacts of individual proposals, but also the cumulative impacts where several proposals come forward in the same locality. In this case, when the examining authority is considering this proposal, the sheer amount of best and most versatile land in this state site must be given due weight. Along with the cumulative impact. It cannot view this application in isolation.

00:43:27:01 - 00:43:57:17

There are many more local applications, either approved or pending, that combine pose an even greater threat to our region. For example, the Secretary of State has already approved Hetherington Fence, covering an area of 1300 acres, and the reservoir proposal, in addition to all solar applications, covers a further 1000 acres. The cumulative impact of so many projects in one district is more more than unreasonable for local people to bear. Springwell is one of the largest applications in the region.

00:43:57:25 - 00:44:29:11

There is no current grid connection and the obligation for a grid connection to be provided if this application is proved to be passed, opens the door and has opened the door to many local applications for large solar farms. A recent report conducted by solar Q showed that 7% of the land in the North Hykeham constituency is open to solar farm applications. The neighbouring constituency of Newark and Gainsborough. These is 8.84 and 5.07% respectively.

00:44:29:20 - 00:45:00:24

The lack of strategic coordination and the density of these massive applications in that area is posing a real threat to our rural communities and to food security. There are several heritage assets within five kilometres of the site, including 11 grade one listed buildings, 218 grade 2 or 2 star listed buildings, and 17 scheduled monuments, including. Bronxville medieval village located approximately 500m to the south of Springwell west, measuring. An airfield sits in the vicinity of this application.

00:45:01:04 - 00:45:36:27

This site preserves the memory of all the men and women who flew with or supported 106 Squadron RAF Bomber Command in World War Two. Something we particularly think of this week. At least 100 is free. At least 18 public footpaths, byways and bridleways lie within the boundaries of this site. These include four promoted walks, which form part of the Stepping Out series developed by North

Kesteven District Council. The Shires and Steeples Trail, the Scott Loop, the Kirkby Green Loop and the Blankley Circuit. Spring Wells own consultation on the height of solar panels, says in some areas the solar panels could be up to four meters high.

00:45:37:06 - 00:46:08:02

There would be 3.5m high. At the highest point, four meters is more than twice the height of even a very tall person walking through them. Meanwhile, West is adjacent to the Blocks and World Nature Reserve in the southeast corner of the site. The impact of these applications on the community health and well-being must be considered, with a loss of nature and biodiversity, impact on house prices, and the mental and physical health of the industrialization in this area of usual tranquil rurality. History has shown us that test technology develops.

00:46:08:04 - 00:46:26:13

Devices often get smaller. Think of IBM computers from 1984 to the iMacs we have today. So the technology is already developing more efficient, smaller panels. There are alternative spaces such as roofs and poor quality land available. It is nonsensical to use our best farmland.

00:46:28:06 - 00:47:04:09

There are three local RAF bases within the vicinity of this application. RAF Digby, RAF Cranwell and RF Waddington. The application is causing great concerns regarding the glint and glare arising from such a large application. In particular, RF Waddington is home to the Red arrows, a key national treasure. The Red arrows fly fast in all directions, including upside down, where glint and glare from panels could dazzle the brave pilots. Due weight must be given to the significance of this particular location and proposal. In light of this, moreover, RAF Digby is the headquarters of the Joint Cyber and Electromagnetic Activities Group.

00:47:04:15 - 00:47:43:24

Any interference with these defence estates could potentially cause significant harm. I will finish with this. I conducted a survey in my constituency in the areas most affected by the large scale energy applications, including Spring World Solar Farm. Letters were sent directly to thousands of households in Sleaford and North Hykeham, and I received over 2000 handwritten responses. These are not simply online forms, they were thought out responses, many of which contain pages of heartfelt comments. Of the respondents, 90% were concerned about the enormous scale of the proposals, 68% were extremely concerned about the use of productive farmland and 55% were extremely concerned about the visual impact.

00:47:44:06 - 00:48:17:12

Lincolnshire is the nation's breadbasket and produces 30% of the UK's vegetables. My constituents understand the importance of our farming heritage and production. They understand the quality of the land that spring will. Springfield spring Wells will engulf. Many local people fear that applications such as this one take away a local level of decision making. However, I've summarised many of their views in my comments today. The responses to my survey speak volumes about this application, and I urge you very strongly to reject this inappropriate application.

00:48:24:11 - 00:48:29:19

Thank you very much for taking the time to speak to us this afternoon. Thank you. Thank you.

00:48:31:13 - 00:48:43:02

Okay. Um, moving on to our next speaker. And this is where my name pronunciations may let me down. Um. Jane's cough, cough cough. Sorry if I've got that wrong.

00:48:50:18 - 00:48:51:24

Okay. Sorry. Thank you.

00:48:53:22 - 00:49:06:28

I live a few hundred meters from the proposed site, where our family also run a licensed horse riding school. I'm here today to strongly object to the sheer scale of this all encompassing project, and the stranglehold it threatens to place on our local community.

00:49:08:16 - 00:49:45:26

If built, this development will dominate the landscape and surround our homes, replacing open countryside with an industrial facility that feels more like a prison camp than a project to enrich people's lives. There isn't a. This isn't a case of a few discreet panels tucked away on unused land. It's a sprawling, industrial scale development that will fundamentally and permanently change the character of our area. Just using my home as an example, when we open our curtains each morning, we'll be greeted by the view of Springwood substation and a battery storage site just 440m away on our daily drive to Nathan B School and Welwyn Garden Nursery.

00:49:45:28 - 00:50:15:00

We'll pass field after field of solar panels, two substations and two battery storage facilities. No doubt with more to come. Our regular dog walks in open countryside will be transformed instead of natural beauty. We'll see tall fences and endless rows of panels and hear the hum of transformers and cooling fans. Whichever direction we travel from our home will be flanked by solar infrastructure. This isn't a small change that we've been asked to deal with. It's a complete takeover of our surroundings and lives.

00:50:16:26 - 00:50:28:17

Is this a case of not in my backyard? No. In fact, I'd rather have solar panels in my own backyard. At least then I'd benefit from them. Solar panels should be on everyone's rooftops before overwhelming communities like ours.

00:50:30:12 - 00:50:47:15

Yes, I'm concerned about property value. My home and business represent my life's work and savings, and I have no doubt that this development will devalue both of them. I'm concerned for my children who may have to deal with this industrial sprawl for the next 40 years and argue about its future after that.

00:50:49:02 - 00:51:28:26

And yes, I'm concerned about the future of our business, too. Would you prefer to learn to ride horses in a countryside setting or next to a substation? There's the very real fire risk of a battery storage site just a few hundred meters away from our home and stables. This is not just a dramatic statement. It's a serious safety concern of ours that our family and more we're horses could be poisoned from the

fumes or burnt alive. As with everyone here, I'm not opposed to solar power, but it must be done sensitively, fairly, and with genuine respect to the communities it impacts our users decision makers here today to consider the project carefully and to listen to the people who have to live with the consequences for the rest of our lives.

00:51:29:28 - 00:51:30:18

Thank you.

00:51:33:28 - 00:51:37:09

Again, thank you very much for taking the time to come and speak to us this afternoon.

00:51:42:03 - 00:51:45:02

Okay. Ralph Tims is next, please.

00:51:52:27 - 00:51:53:22

Just give you.

00:51:55:10 - 00:52:10:22

We can't accept any sort of evidence handed in today that unfortunately, you can describe. Describe the diagram and provide a copy with your written, um, summary of what you've said today. That's that's how we need to do it. I'm sorry.

00:52:12:13 - 00:52:12:28

All right.

00:52:13:09 - 00:52:14:09

Thank you very much.

00:52:15:27 - 00:52:18:16

Your five minutes will begin whenever you're ready. Thank you.

00:52:19:01 - 00:52:19:16

Thank you.

00:52:19:23 - 00:52:56:09

My name's Ralph Timms. I'm the owner of Bloxham Wood. Solar farms are a bad option for electricity supply in Britain, and especially in Lincolnshire, because output is lowest in winter when demand is highest. The difference between the summer and winter solstices is 10 to 1. Output is zero for 12 hours in spring and summer, and for up to 16 hours in the six months from September to March. As a result, battery storage is required to supply surplus power on spring and summer evenings, but this is of little use in winter.

00:52:57:28 - 00:53:35:28

In summer. The surge in solar power when demand is lowest, threatens to throw Britain's national grid off balance. There's been lots of articles, but C1 in the times of 16th of April. The recent power outage in Spain is a warning of what can happen when the national grid lacks Inertia and cannot handle

massive surges of solar power. This problems can be more acute on a local level. If the sun suddenly comes out on the approximately ten 000 hectares, that's 40 40mi² of solar farms approved and proposed in Lincolnshire.

00:53:36:15 - 00:54:06:21

The generated 3 to 4GW of power will completely overwhelm the local grid network. The Springwell design approach document says solar panels don't need direct sunlight to work and can produce power all year round, even in winter. Solar is powerful and effective. At one point in February 2022, solar provided more than 20% of the UK's electricity. This is true, but wilfully misleading.

00:54:07:07 - 00:54:37:11

It is true that on a clear, sunny day in February, solar panels can produce electricity, but still only 20% of the summer peak, and that assumes a sunny day. But what about the far more common cloudy days when the panels will produce only 5 to 10% of their nominal output? As I know from experience with the solar panels on our house, most solar panels and batteries are made in China and imported, thus adding to the UK's trade deficit.

00:54:37:17 - 00:55:15:24

A loss of manufacturing jobs. In contrast, wind turbines are the best type of renewable energy in the UK because potentially they generate electricity. 24 hours a day for all the year. As a result, wind turbines generate about 30% of their nominal megawatt capacity, compared with only 12% for solar. And because of 24 hour, 365 day output, battery storage is not needed. Onshore wind turbines on arable or pasture land mean that about 95% of the area can still be used for agriculture.

00:55:16:17 - 00:56:01:20

A wind turbine is like a pylon. Farmers can work round it. Wind turbines are made in the UK, on Humberside and in the Isle of Wight. So benefiting UK manufacturing jobs and the trade balance, it is quite illogical for the government to subsidise British Steel at Scunthorpe and remove the Chinese owners and then import solar panels from China, instead of using wind turbines produced in the UK using British steel. My opinion, especially after talking to Springwell Solar and EDF staff at the consultation meeting, is that EDF for only proposing solar panels instead of wind turbines, because the previous conservative government made it almost impossible to get planning permission for onshore wind turbines.

00:56:02:07 - 00:56:20:20

However, the current Labour government has made a priority of changing the planning system, so it's now logical to install wind turbines of solar panels. Therefore, this application should be rejected and EDF renewables asked to resubmit the application based on wind turbines.

00:56:21:03 - 00:56:22:09

One minute remaining.

00:56:22:17 - 00:56:51:27

In conclusion, the examination should take into account that one solar panels are an inefficient method of supplying renewable energy in Lincolnshire compared with onshore wind turbines. And two there is a strong likelihood that the huge area of solar farms proposed in Lincolnshire will completely

overwhelm the local grid, causing severe, severe power outages in the local area and probably beyond. Thank you very much.

00:56:55:04 - 00:56:55:19

Thank you.

00:56:56:29 - 00:56:58:17

Thank you very much, Mr. Timms.

00:57:07:09 - 00:57:14:28

Thank you. Um. Next up is Marianne Overton. Please, on behalf of Cliff Villages Solar Action Group. Thank you.

00:57:20:10 - 00:57:23:04

Thank you. Thank you very much. Um, good to see you.

00:57:24:03 - 00:57:26:19

Thank you. So whenever you're ready, your ten minutes will start.

00:57:26:23 - 00:57:37:12

Thanks for that. Um, I'm going to cover, uh, quite a few points because I want to emphasize the significance of those particular areas.

00:57:39:00 - 00:58:16:14

So firstly, we live in a very rural area. Now, some people may not realize that. What that means is that we have a large number of people who are closely connected to the environment. We don't have large numbers of people living in a city and then vacant landscape. Because of the way the history has developed in this agricultural county. It means that we people have live in small villages or even isolated homesteads that used to be the center of their farm, which is how it developed.

00:58:17:01 - 00:58:27:20

And that's why there is no space for anything this size to have. It's not to have a significant impact on the people living here.

00:58:30:02 - 00:58:58:20

It would be much more sensible to have the energy produced close to where it's needed adjacent to cities, perhaps even using those grid connections that are already there. We wouldn't then need pylons, cables, substations or any of that expensive infrastructure which we are paying for through our electricity bills.

00:59:03:02 - 00:59:28:10

The size and the scale of this development, especially when taken together, this is the biggest. But if you take them together, there's some 9000 acres and that is an area significantly larger than in cases, the whole of the city of Lincoln that houses 110,000 people.

00:59:29:25 - 00:59:45:09

The cumulative impact of industrializing that size of landscape is huge and cannot be overlooked. Indeed, it's hard to grasp the size of it.

00:59:48:24 - 01:00:08:18

Along with that, because of the size of the developments that are proposed, of course, come something like a thousand batteries, a thousand containers of batteries close to Colby, and then more batteries attached to this one. Some at Wellington and at Wellborn.

01:00:10:24 - 01:00:31:14

If you think an accident might occur. How often? How often does it occur? I'd like to know. Perhaps you get a battery explosion once in a thousand. Well, what happens when you have tens of thousands of batteries in containers? Close to villages and close to residences.

01:00:34:00 - 01:01:07:02

In a rural area. We do not have the fire defense that you might hope for. Even in London, we saw the Grenfell disaster. But for us to get the kind of support that we would need to tackle a fire like that just doesn't happen. Most of our fire stations are part time, voluntary workers to deal with something of this size and nature. I cannot envisage how it could be done.

01:01:08:16 - 01:01:29:12

We've seen fires even in developed areas such as California, where they burnt for 13 days and they weren't put out. It was deemed that that was just going to have to be what we put up with. And vast areas would need to be evacuated and wildlife no doubt poisoned.

01:01:32:03 - 01:01:36:28

It cannot be right to do this to a rural countryside.

01:01:38:29 - 01:02:02:24

It's also not in the interests of the country. And I have had meetings with ministers, and I said, I cannot believe that you'd allow this. These are global companies that are profiting, and we are paying for it through our electricity bills. There's hardly room for GB energy to do any more when it's already all allocated.

01:02:05:26 - 01:02:21:06

With GB energy, they have said that they would not use solar that involved slave labour, so we would need to know whether that was going to be the same case for all companies.

01:02:24:06 - 01:02:56:25

The environment, the agricultural land. And I'm going to cover this a bit. I do live on a family farm, although we don't actually farm ourselves at the moment, but nevertheless we are the third generation in that area. Farming relatives farm. It's the third generation farming there, and that's not uncommon. Most of our farms have been found for many generations, and the point of that is that we have worked to protect and husband the land for many generations.

01:02:58:07 - 01:03:08:22

Land that is given up for solar for short term profit. And I call it short term because I'm not sure that they'll survive 4060 years without going out of date.

01:03:11:04 - 01:03:13:08

That's not the best way forward.

01:03:16:09 - 01:03:49:09

Thinking about the out of date, I think that's a really important point. I do represent England in Europe, speaking for local governments, for European local governments, at Cop events and so on. And I have spoken firsthand to the producers of these solar panels and other solar equipment, and they have shown me that the modern stuff that they're producing now is thin and light as cloth can go on any amount of roof or material.

01:03:49:27 - 01:03:56:22

There's absolutely no need to cover good agricultural land for the next 40 or 60 years.

01:03:59:03 - 01:04:07:22

It's a big mistake to put that land into the hands of global companies for the rest of our lifetimes.

01:04:11:17 - 01:04:43:21

The point of the public in this area, and I do want to raise this because we have had significant support from the public, from residents who live and love the area that we live in. We held public meeting. We had coats on 300 people. When you think these are rural villages, that's a lot. We had another one a month later in another of the neighbouring villages, and another 200 people appeared.

01:04:44:16 - 01:04:53:28

People are really worried about the consequences of the battery storage and of the industrialization.

01:04:54:00 - 01:04:54:15

Realization.

01:04:54:28 - 01:04:56:13

Of our countryside.

01:04:58:04 - 01:05:29:12

The loss of good farmland is important. As has been mentioned, we've been to war over things less than food. How much more important could this be in the future? And if we've already sold out and given that to foreign companies or global companies. That's not going to be possible for us to survive. Possibly. Who knows what's around the corner? If a crop is used for energy production this year.

01:05:29:24 - 01:05:44:15

It can go into wheat next. It's not 40 years locked up, and that's why it's so important to think about the flexibility of being able to use the land for different purposes.

01:05:46:01 - 01:06:20:20

I also want to support the point about the quality of land. We've said about the government has said about supporting best the most versatile and most versatile meaning in the old days that you could get a machine to go up and down because it wasn't too steep. And that's part of the grading. But now that's not an issue because the machinery can go up no problem. So that three A if you stood in a field and part of the field is three A and part of it is three B, you would not be able to tell the difference.

01:06:21:20 - 01:06:29:26

It's going to depend partly on the year of how much water is produced. So I'll come to a close.

01:06:29:28 - 01:06:30:28

One minute remaining.

01:06:31:00 - 01:06:50:00

Thank you. So I'll come to a close. Um, the government has started to push towards a sequential test. Solar. Industrial solar should be on roofs, car parks, down the middle of railways, not on good farmland. Locking it up for the rest of our lives.

01:06:51:15 - 01:07:17:20

will soon be out of date, and there will be far more efficient methods available for renewable energy. So this is just a bad mistake. So what I'd like to see, I urge you to reject this on the planning grounds that I know we have put forward in force from the different authorities, and we certainly appreciate your vital support at this time. Thank you.

01:07:22:09 - 01:07:22:24

Okay.

01:07:23:00 - 01:07:31:05

Thank you very much for your contribution this afternoon, Miss Overton. Okay. Next on our list is David Crampton.

01:07:37:06 - 01:07:37:27

Afternoon.

01:07:38:07 - 01:07:42:11

David. Good afternoon. Thank you. And again, your five minutes will start. When? When you're ready. Thank you.

01:07:42:13 - 01:07:42:28

Okay.

01:07:43:20 - 01:07:44:05

So.

01:07:44:12 - 01:08:19:23

Um. Net zero. I looked that up. Oxford University describe it as net zero refers to a state in where which the greenhouse gas is going into the atmosphere are balanced by the removal out of the

atmosphere. And I think we'd all agree that requires a coherent and comprehensive policy. Recent world events, pandemics, war in Ukraine, etc. American tariffs have demonstrated the need for the country to have a greater resilience and self-sufficiency. UK government's approach to Scunthorpe steelworks may well represent some of that.

01:08:20:14 - 01:08:53:17

According to Defra, the UK grows just over 60% of its own food by the time the food gets to our plates. This, they tell us, reduces to 50%. So in excess of 50% of the food we eat is imported. It is well recognised that agriculture is a significant emitter of greenhouse gases. It is also widely recognised that the UK agricultural industry is investing in solutions to reduce these emissions. Overreliance on imported food does not remove greenhouse gas emissions from food production.

01:08:53:29 - 01:09:27:22

It moves them to another country, which may not have the technology and resources to reduce those emissions. This approach does increase greenhouse gases, of course, from air, sea, rail and road miles. Getting the food to us. Science tells us that changing climate will influence farming. And this is there's a lot of conflicting information, even in the government publications. But the common theme is that this is a risk that this will give a risk to world food supplies in the coming years.

01:09:28:25 - 01:10:03:02

The UK government response to the petition ban large solar farms, says, and I quote, the government does not intend to induce a ban on solar schemes on farmland. However, planning guidance makes clear that wherever possible, Should utilise brownfield, industrial, contaminated or previously developed land where the development of agricultural land is shown to be necessary. Lower quality land should be preferred to higher quality land. I would point out to you that this site for Springfield is not brownfield.

01:10:03:04 - 01:10:33:06

It's not industrial. It's probably not contaminated. It's not been previously developed. It is agricultural land. And according to Ncdcc, 42% of it is BMV best and most versatile. And the the developer therefore needs to demonstrate the use of this land is necessary. On the basis of these points above, I would suggest you that the Springfield application must and should fail. The production of electricity on such grand scales should be closed to the point of use.

01:10:33:12 - 01:11:12:06

You're more likely to find the land it is not suitable for growing food. You will reduce infrastructure and distribution costs and the electricity grid inefficiencies that come with that. Solar panels are funded by developers. No issue with developers. They contribute to our economy. But developers choose science based on their investment return. It's unlikely they will consider the bigger picture in the UK and local environment, and the companies in front of this appear to have no worth. Assets are likely to be sold on multiple times, and I question how these companies are going to be held to account to return the land to agriculture in 40 or 60 years.

01:11:12:27 - 01:11:48:01

This is not an either or argument. We can have both. The UK need to decide the best location for green energy developments, not developments with a business agenda. There is growing evidence of

slave labour being used in the sourcing of raw products and manufactured solar panels. On the 24th of April 2025, Ed Miliband said he would banned National Energy Company from investing in the projects that use solar panels linked to Chinese slave labor. I would urge the panel to ensure that applies to all developers producing solar panel schemes.

01:11:48:06 - 01:11:49:11

One minute remaining.

01:11:49:15 - 01:12:20:06

Thank you. Recycling. There appears to be credible evidence that panels cannot be recycled. I therefore suggest that means they go to landfill. It is highly likely that solar panels will currently know them, will not be appropriate technology in the very near future, and I would urge the planning inspector to seek some guarantees of how they're going to be dealt with. Perhaps the developer needs to return them to the country of origin. Finally, pollutants. There is a suggestion that PFA.

01:12:20:24 - 01:12:55:15

As I understand these, they are classified as forever chemicals because they don't break down easily using the coating of electronics and solar panels. There is evidence that PFAS are harmful to plant life and human life on the planet, and animal life as well. And I would urge the panel, the inspectorate to ask for some investigation into how. Sorry. We say that again. To urge you to understand how fees come, how the quantity of PFAS that may come from solar panel installations.

01:12:55:18 - 01:12:56:08

Thank you.

01:12:56:29 - 01:12:57:14

Okay.

01:12:57:23 - 01:13:00:15

Thank you very much for coming to see us this afternoon.

01:13:07:27 - 01:13:13:09

Okay. So the gentleman taking photos just just down at the table. Are you a local reporter or.

01:13:18:08 - 01:13:47:18

By. I see. Okay. Thank you. It's just I'm finding slightly distracting having you up at the table, taking photos. And if if you're slightly more covertly would be perfect. And I just want to focus on hearing from from all the, the local people that want to talk to us. But that's much appreciated. Thank you. Take all the pictures of me you like, but, um, um, and then say, if anyone feels uncomfortable having pictures taken up that close, then please do let me know and I'll ask that it doesn't happen. Okay. Laura MacGregor, I think is next on our list.

01:13:49:09 - 01:13:51:03

Oh, virtually. Okay. Thank you.

01:13:55:04 - 01:13:56:11

Hello? Me? Okay.

01:13:57:03 - 01:13:59:22

Yes, I can hear you. Can you hear me? Okay.

01:13:59:24 - 01:14:04:05

Yes, we can hear you. Thank you. Yes. Your five minutes will begin when you're ready. Thank you.

01:14:04:19 - 01:14:37:21

Lovely. Thank you. Okay, so thank you for letting me hop on this virtually. Um, my name is Laura MacGregor, and I'm just discussing to you today as a concerned resident and a family member, small business owner, and a health care teacher. Um, I just want to raise some several significant concerns regarding the proposed solar farm project associated with the planning reference number, which, you know, I've already today. I know a lot of people have spoke about this and touched already the points. Because I've been listening and they're doing a fantastic job.

01:14:37:23 - 01:15:02:07

So thank you so very much. And I'm so sorry I can't be with you there today. But as we are all aware, um, solar farms have considerable downsides, including their impact on the landscape, local wildlife and property values. Um, these these issues are critical for our community. And I kindly ask that you consider them all as you review this proposal.

01:15:03:22 - 01:15:37:22

One of my primary concerns is the environmental impact of the extensive infrastructure required for the solar farms, particularly the need for large lithium battery storage facilities. The potential hazards associated with the lithium batteries, including by race or alarming recent incidences such as the uncontrollable fire at the solar farm in California, as someone's already cited. Um, and also another in the East Anglia, highlight the dangers posed with the nearby communities.

01:15:38:25 - 01:16:09:25

The evaluation of the local residents due to the toxic fumes and the hospitalization of individuals suffering from respiratory issues, are serious concerns on our roads and and just shouldn't be overlooked. Um. Furthermore, the visual and the aesthetic impact of the large solar farms on our rural landscape is troubling. The historical significance of our area, particularly the cliff villages of Lincolnshire, at risk.

01:16:10:13 - 01:16:47:09

Our community is steeped in history, with archaeological evidence dating back to the Bronze Age. The introduction of industrial structures would disrupt the natural beauty and tranquillity that define our environment. As a primary care giver for my severely disabled, autistic brother, Neil. I'm particularly concerned about the proposed lithium battery storage facilities, proximity to our home. Less than a quarter of a mile. We chose Gorse Hill Bungalow specifically for its peaceful surroundings, which are essential for my brother Neil's wellbeing.

01:16:47:24 - 01:17:22:17

The noise and visual disturbances from the proposed facility would be detrimental to his mental health and quality of life. Neil, who has the mental capacity of a young child, is highly sensitive to the changes in his environment and the presence of such a facility would cause him significant distress. Additionally, we have a small holiday cabin which helps support our family and Neil's care, and this would likely suffer from decreased appeal due to the proximity of the industrial structures, the battery storages and the Solas.

01:17:23:12 - 01:17:55:28

The tranquil environment that attracts visitors would be replaced by construction, noise and visual pollution impacting our livelihood. The loss of high quality agricultural land is another pressing concern. Lincolnshire is known as everybody's been saying about the, um, Britain's veg basket. It's contributing significantly to the nation's food production. Utilising fertile agricultural land for solar farms, contrary indicates the goal of sustainable sustainability.

01:17:56:16 - 01:18:32:26

And you could lead to increased food imports, further contributing to carbon emissions. More so over the ecological impact of solar farms cannot be ignored. The disruption of the disruption of local ecosystems and potential harm to the wildlife is a serious issue that affects us all. The noise and the light pollution generated by solar farms can also disrupt both residents and wildlife. As a community, we are united in our concerns about the potential for reduced property values, increased traffic and the disruption of our established way of life.

01:18:33:09 - 01:19:04:29

We do not support Springwell project, and I urge you to consider the profound implications of this development would have on our beautiful communities. Thank you for allowing us to voice our opinions and concerns, and I appreciate your attention to this matter and hope that you will take our family personally and the communities that needs into account as you make your decision. Thank you very, very much. Yours sincerely from the McGregor family, as we're known to you guys as, but also as a concerned resident and a community.

01:19:05:01 - 01:19:06:05

Thank you very much.

01:19:07:08 - 01:19:13:19

Okay. Thank you very much, miss McGregor. Thank you for taking the time to speak to us. Thank you.

01:19:16:19 - 01:19:24:06

Okay. Uh, next up, I have, uh, Paul Frost, who I think is also virtual attendance as well.

01:19:30:27 - 01:19:32:07

Can you hear me, Mr. Frost?

01:19:32:27 - 01:19:34:07

Uh, yeah, I can hear you. Can you hear me?

01:19:34:09 - 01:19:35:02

Fantastic.

01:19:35:06 - 01:19:38:25

Yes, that's all fine. Thank you. So your five minutes will start when you're ready. Thank you.

01:19:38:27 - 01:19:39:13

Okay.

01:19:40:01 - 01:20:10:27

Uh, hello. My name is Paul Frost. I'm a resident of Scott Quick. A member of Scott and Kirkby Green Parish Council and a member of the Springwell Solar Action Group. I'm talking today on my own behalf. Personally, I object to the sale of Farm for many, many reasons, which I've submitted during the consultation and relevant representation phases of the process. I'm assured these will all be taken into account, so I'm not trying to cover them all here. Today I want to highlight a couple of areas please.

01:20:11:12 - 01:20:41:18

Fire and screening. Firstly fire risk. Like many residents, I'm very concerned about the high risk of fire and the catastrophic consequences for health, for the environment and the water supply when it happens. Much detail has been provided in the relevant representations. Many previous projects have glibly listed all the usual that they are building and operating the solar farms in line with legal regulation.

01:20:42:17 - 01:21:13:03

Many have then gone on to catch fire. There's even a database now to track all the battery fires. The Epri Failure Incident Database, which already lists three events in the UK just this year. Why will this development be any different? Absolutely does happen. It isn't a small risk, as the applicant would like us to believe, with the onslaught of planning applications for best projects.

01:21:13:10 - 01:21:53:02

This list of incidents will just get higher and higher unless it is properly tackled in the planning stages. It isn't good enough to simply say we'll sort it out with Fire and Rescue later, which seems to be the current status in this application. It needs to be done now, be part of the planning process, and subject to the same scrutiny by the inspector and the public as the other documents. I note the National Fire Chiefs Council have updated guidance in draft on grid scale battery energy storage systems, which is due for publication imminently.

01:21:53:15 - 01:22:24:22

They are updating this guidance, which was first drafted in 2023, due to their wider experience with base and the explosion of applications for new best facilities. Yes. Explosion. This new guidance. To be clear, the 2025 version should be used to provide a final version, not a draft of the agreement and plans between the applicant and fire and rescue with any suggested provisions of equipment, water bonding, space personnel, etc.

01:22:25:03 - 01:22:55:15

by fire and rescue becoming a binding condition of planning should the worst happen and you actually approve this dreadful solar factory. My second point relates to aesthetics. Lincolnshire is a beautiful county with large skies and long, sweeping horizon style views. The views around Scott pick from the large network of public footpaths and roadways will be forever spoiled by the introduction of solar related structures.

01:22:56:05 - 01:23:38:19

It will not be possible to see the horizon and the large skies will be significantly reduced. The applicant seems to think that planting hedges and trees in front of the solar structures will mitigate this aesthetic problem. Of course it won't. It just means we will have a close up view of a hedge. The government's own And three planning document section two 1043 states visual impacts should be minimized and that screening along public rights of way networks to minimize the outlook onto a solar park may impact on the ability of users to appreciate the surrounding landscape.

01:23:39:29 - 01:23:41:03

Of course it will.

01:23:42:07 - 01:23:43:08

Well, it seems to me.

01:23:43:21 - 01:24:16:14

This seems to be the applicant's mitigation for all affected views and should not be accepted. The location is simply wrong for a solar factory. You can't mitigate a bad location choice. I've submitted a visit location suggestion for the Spires and Steeples Trail, just to the north of Scott Peak, where this can be demonstrated along with the effect of four years of construction traffic crossing the footpath, spoiling the peace and tranquility, as well as the views and increasing the risk of accidents.

01:24:16:28 - 01:24:34:02

The application should be rejected for this point alone. Yet alone, all the other points I and others have made and are making today. Thank you for the time to raise these points. Please listen to and don't just hear and dismiss people's points of view. Thank you.

01:24:39:04 - 01:24:42:24

Thank you, Mr. Frost, for taking the time to speak to us this afternoon. Thank you.

01:24:44:10 - 01:24:50:12

Okay, next up we have, uh, Toby Dennis, if you're here.

01:24:54:04 - 01:24:54:22

No.

01:24:59:09 - 01:25:04:06

Um, actually, Toby Dennis, I think is. Well. Right. Okay. Thank you.

01:25:06:02 - 01:25:11:14

Uh, Mr. Kendrick, um, if you're here. Thank you.

01:25:21:21 - 01:25:25:04

Okay. Thank you very much. Your ten minutes will begin when you're ready. Thank you.

01:25:25:17 - 01:25:59:27

Thank you very much. Uh, my name is, uh, councillor Rob Kendrick. I'm the councillor for measuring in rural on the county council. And that includes the area of the proposed site of this development. Uh, the question I always pose to myself, um, when I see an application is will it benefit the area I represent and the county as a whole, and I will be failing in my duty also not to listen to the concerns of residents. Now, previous speakers this afternoon have obviously detailed, um, many concerns.

01:25:59:29 - 01:26:36:13

And I'm not going to list them all, but some that really come to mind in my case as a county councillor, are the loss of agricultural land, potential damage to the environment, um, through pollution and as other speakers have mentioned, the risk of fire and the pollution that comes from that and also the visual loss of amenity in the area. But as I say, we're all well aware of the increasingly lengthening list. I had concerns myself about this application, and I have to say, these concerns have been reinforced by the evidence I've seen from various individuals and groups.

01:26:37:14 - 01:27:10:12

I also believe that there's a negative impact, a potential negative impact on a growing part of the Lincolnshire economy. And I'm referring to the visitor economy, which is now worth over £2 billion to Lincolnshire and employs a large number of people. It's one of our growing industries, as it were. This obviously would be severely, severely impacted if we had some vast areas of our county and in particular, obviously in my division, covered by solar panels.

01:27:10:21 - 01:27:45:28

And so there's an impact on employment as well as the economy as a whole. And what concerns me, the long term detrimental impact of having this solar development. And I've not heard anything so far that reassures me that, for example, the decommissioning of the site will leave the land in a in a satisfactory state afterwards, including, obviously, the redundant solar panels, how they will be disposed of. Other speakers have mentioned the ethical concerns in the sourcing of solar panels.

01:27:46:04 - 01:28:34:06

I too had a discussion at the outset with representatives of EDF energy, and I asked them where would the solar panels come from? And all they would tell me is the Far East. And I felt that that was a being disingenuous to say the least. We all know what was really meant by saying the Far East, so I think there's a great risk, um, of leaving a potentially a wasteland where this solar site, um, would be. And as I say, there's nothing that encourages me or makes me feel that there's any benefit whatsoever, either to the the residents I represent on the county council or the county as a whole, or the economy of the county as a whole, or from a visitor perspective.

01:28:34:19 - 01:29:07:15

There seems to be nothing I can see that would in any way make me feel that this is an appropriate development in the area. Uh, as I say, the negative impacts have been outlined by many speakers before me. Uh, but particularly what concerns me is the long term environmental damage. Uh, that

would be for other generations to deal with. When I'm gone and others have gone, it'll still be there. And I think that's something which would be a retrograde step. And I think I've covered all the points I'd like to cover it this stage.

01:29:07:26 - 01:29:08:26

Thank you very much.

01:29:10:18 - 01:29:15:18

Thank you very much. Mr. Kendrick, thank you for your presentation.

01:29:17:10 - 01:29:22:02

Okay. Um, next up we have, uh, Susan. Elvin. Please.

01:29:29:29 - 01:29:46:10

Can I just say that I've actually got. I've been asked to read out a councillor Amelia Bailey's mental health impact. Um, she did apply and then was unable to come at the last minute.

01:29:46:24 - 01:29:47:12

Okay.

01:29:47:20 - 01:30:01:10

And also Alison and Richard Durrance, who live, uh, next to the proposed solar site and also run a a business from there as well.

01:30:01:29 - 01:30:04:03

Right. Okay. That's fine. Um.

01:30:04:14 - 01:30:10:15

They're less than. They're less than five minutes. Five minutes each, if that's okay.

01:30:10:19 - 01:30:15:21

Sorry. So you want to. For each of those parties, you want to read out something which is five minutes each?

01:30:15:25 - 01:30:17:00

Yes. Less I.

01:30:17:02 - 01:30:17:17

Think.

01:30:17:19 - 01:30:18:14

Less than five.

01:30:18:16 - 01:30:28:12

Did we know beforehand that this was going to be the case? Yes. Um, Miss Weatherby, did you know that that was likely to be requested?

01:30:30:06 - 01:30:41:20

I'm just mindful. We are very tight, and it would be unfair for me to not allow someone later on in the day not to be able to speak. Um, because we've allowed more time now. That's my my worry.

01:30:42:08 - 01:30:49:14

Um, they did register to. They did register. Each of them did register to to speak.

01:30:50:00 - 01:30:57:06

Okay. I miss Weatherby, the case manager isn't aware of that, which. No.

01:30:59:08 - 01:31:00:05

Okay, okay.

01:31:01:01 - 01:31:09:01

So if you'd like five minutes for yourself. I mean, obviously there's the next deadline coming up, so something could be provided in writing. Um, from those parties, if you wish.

01:31:09:13 - 01:31:10:01

Okay.

01:31:10:14 - 01:31:34:06

So, um, I was a district nurse consultant within the NHS for almost 40 years. I'm also a resident of Digby Village and a member, a member of Springwell Social Action Group. And I'm very interested in the health risks and impacts impact, um, of Springwell solar.

01:31:35:22 - 01:32:07:06

Um, it's been cited that for population health, the guidance refers to the marmot report from the Institute of Health Equity published in 2010, and a further marmot review in 2020. Ten years on. And the key worrying messages from that report is that since 2010, life expectancy in England has stalled. This hasn't happened since at least 1900.

01:32:08:01 - 01:32:27:29

So if health has stopped improving, it is a sign that society has stopped improving. Now, I'm not saying that's all because of solar developments, but I'm just saying it's very, very important to consider the health implications, especially of such a large scale solar development.

01:32:29:24 - 01:33:12:11

As far as I can see, there's no evidence that Springwell has considered the effects of each determinant of health and their level of effect. Sorry, there's very little evidence or research into this area. As I understand, it's unprecedented to cite this large scale solar factory, whatever you want to call them. They're usually sighted in desert environments, so any studies that have been done so far are not on comparable land, and certainly not in such close proximity to residents.

01:33:14:05 - 01:33:45:24

The whole process seems to me to be riddled with risk from the impoverished Chinese workers producing the panels for an absolute pittance to those of us who live and work locally. The World Health Organization have agreed large scale solar is possibly harmful, at least causing fatigue and headaches. Um, the mental health aspects I could do you want me to include.

01:33:45:26 - 01:33:51:12

I've actually put that it was addressed in Councillor Amelia Bailey's contribution.

01:33:52:18 - 01:34:01:20

I'm happy for you to refer to it, but, um, obviously, you know, it's not appropriate to read it out now, but if they want to submit it in writing the next deadline, then will receive it that way. That's fine.

01:34:02:09 - 01:34:43:04

However, for child health, electromagnetic field risks seems to be being unacknowledged and the risk of radiation and potential causes of cancer. The massive fire risk which other people have covered in depth is of a deep concern to me, as we only have a volunteer fire service and I think it's been really highlighted, um, with the evidence of all of the pipelines, you're my mind just boggles at the thought of how a fire could spread if there was damage to those for the disabled, those with additional needs.

01:34:43:06 - 01:34:59:01

Older people. Apart from those mental health aspects, the increased risk of power cuts are extremely dangerous with regards to potential falls and the loss of their essential equipment. As we've seen most recently in Spain,

01:35:00:25 - 01:35:16:29

the sectioning off of large areas with security is taking away basic freedoms to wander and be part of our land, as people have done for centuries. I am fundamentally.

01:35:17:01 - 01:35:18:08

One minute remaining.

01:35:18:10 - 01:35:45:06

Fundamentally opposed to the development of solar in such large scales. They should be on individual houses, and I think there should be some honesty here. This is nothing to do with benefits for local people. This is about big business making money because we look as though we're an unimportant area. And I strongly reject that. Thank you very much.

01:35:47:08 - 01:35:51:15

Thank you very much, Miss Irwin. Thank you for your contribution. Okay.

01:35:53:25 - 01:36:04:03

That's fine. Um, I've been informed. Miss Jenkins, I think you'd like to pop in and just talk to us for. For ten minutes. Um, at 330, so that's fine. Thank you. If you'd like to. To come forward now.

01:36:04:26 - 01:36:11:01

Thanks for fitting me in. Um, I don't think it'll be as long as that, but, um. Do I address you as Mr. Chairman?

01:36:11:07 - 01:36:11:24

But that's fine.

01:36:11:26 - 01:36:46:26

Is that fine? Yes. Thank you. Well, um, I'm here today, Mr. Chairman. Um, during the recent election campaign, I held a petition to call for the immediate halt of large scale industrial solar farm developments on Lincolnshire's prime agricultural land. Now, within the space of just a few short weeks, I gathered over 5000 signatures. I found there to be real anger on the doorstep against the Labour government's plans to desecrate our farmland with mass solar farms. And from there, I also held a rally here in our great city of Lincoln.

01:36:47:13 - 01:37:28:11

Um, it was very well attended and even candidates from all the parties came as well. So I think there's a real united front against this and a real public anger. Now, I heard just briefly, um, the last speaker talk, um, saying it's about big business. It is the feel on the doorstep like that. And when we see, um, perceived nepotism, I say perceived because I'll choose my words carefully. When Labour donors, um, end up, um, getting granted planning permissions, as we saw, um, recently in Lincolnshire and they this person now looking to sell it on to make more money.

01:37:28:22 - 01:38:01:21

Now, I think this is pretty awful actually, because the people of Lincolnshire have got to live with this. Now, as the mayor of Greater Lincolnshire, I stand as a voice for the thousands of people across our county who are opposed to these mass solar farms. Now, in addition to my petition Recently, the Lancashire County Council held a consultation. Now, the results showed that 83% of respondents were concerned or very concerned about the impact of large scale development of solar farms.

01:38:02:06 - 01:38:40:01

Now, the majority of these also wanted to see solar on roofs of buildings, as this was deemed a more suitable location for solar panels. Now, further points I'd like you to consider, Mr. Chairman, is that solar only generates on average, 10% of its rated or installed capacity. Um, it does not do what it says on the tin, so to speak. Um, a 500mW solar farm needs a massive 2500 acres of land with an electrical contribution to the nation of just 0.15%.

01:38:40:13 - 01:39:17:21

Now, in comparison, Hinkley Point nuclear power station will have a generation capacity of 200mW. And this accounts for 7% of the UK as electricity need, and it'll cover an area of approximately 400 acres. Like, while Sizewell C produces 3200mW, covering an area of 170 acres. So the energy produced by these stations will be reliable. It'll be consistent. And in contrast to solar energy, as we know and is proven, it's intermittent, is unreliable and produces very little in winter when we need it the most.

01:39:18:00 - 01:39:50:02

Now, the UK could lose 600,000 acres of land to solar. Now this is twice the size of Greater Manchester. This represents 4% of the nation's crop arable land. And ironically, we have 6000 acres of unused industrial rooftops, much of which is suitable for solar panels. Now, in effect, if solar farms are a part of a multi-billion pound plan to modernize the electricity sector, but it would only reduce our 1% of global emissions by one fifth.

01:39:51:01 - 01:40:22:29

Now, to back up the gas, power stations that are needed at night and on dull days will demand a higher price to remain available to generate. And the last round of renewable energy auctions now make the cheapest renewable solar more expensive than gas. Now, I'd also like to point out I'm not hearing really many of people on the national stage, politicians talking about the food security. Now, our great county is a bread basket that feeds Britain.

01:40:23:14 - 01:40:53:21

And I'd ask why? Why would a government put our country's food security in jeopardy with mass solar farms? It's a big question that we need to ask. And I ask you today, Mr. Chairman, to consider this food security aspect. There's already already massive pressures on our farming community with recent government farm tax. And it feels like at times that our Lincolnshire farmers and farmers across the UK are purposely being targeted.

01:40:53:29 - 01:41:26:20

Now this is how it is perceived. This is how it feels. Now there's other elements as well. There's a human cost. Now, I ask you to consider about the abhorrent aspect that Chinese Muslim slavery is quite often used to make solar panels. And look at the, um, the best battery systems. They've proven to be dangerous recently. Three have gone up in flames in this, um, this year out of 130 in operation. So I urge you, Mr. Chairman, please put panels on roofs, not farmland.

01:41:27:02 - 01:42:00:29

Evermore. Solar electricity is more weak. Electricity increasing the risk of intermittency and blackouts, as we've seen in Spain only last week. Now, solar, like all renewables, depends on subsidies by the taxpayer and can lead to higher, not lower, bills. But I'd like to, um, really finish, Mr. Chairman, by asking you to please do not desecrate our farmland. Do not let this government desecrate our farmland. We have some of the richest, most fertile land in the country.

01:42:01:16 - 01:42:11:07

And if it's desecrated. How are we going to feed the rest of Britain for future generations? So please listen to the people of Greater Lincolnshire. Thank you.

01:42:13:05 - 01:42:17:21

Thank you very much for coming to this this afternoon and for your contribution. Thank you.

01:42:18:07 - 01:42:18:22

Okay.

01:42:19:05 - 01:42:31:03

I think now is an appropriate time to have our break. Um, we're getting to that point of the afternoon, so we will adjourn, um, for 15 minutes. Well, I'll round it up slightly, so we'll come back at 4:00. Thank you.