



Hearing Transcript

Project:	Springwell Solar Farm
Hearing:	Open Floor Hearing 2 (OFH2) - Part 2
Date:	15 July 2025

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FULL TRANSCRIPT (with timecode)

00:00:10:18 - 00:00:20:08

Okay, it's 6:20, so we will resume the open floor hearing. Um, as I said before the break. Uh, Cheryl Johnson, would you like to come forward, please?

00:00:32:14 - 00:00:39:06

Okay. Yeah. Please turn your microphone on. Yep. And, uh, welcome. And your five minutes will begin when you're ready.

00:00:39:07 - 00:01:15:08

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Um, I'm Cheryl Johnson, and I'm a resident of Temple Brewer. Uh, I speak today as a resident, directly affected and deeply concerned about the proposal to construct a large scale solar farm on valuable farmland in our community, a small rural community that will forever be defined by this monstrously large Development. If the country had a sensible energy policy, then renewable energy would have a role to play. But the headlong dash with solar appears to be an unbalanced element within the overall energy providing system, giving us one of the most expensive energy prices globally.

00:01:15:17 - 00:01:49:08

This development is simply the wrong solution in the wrong place. If Springvale is granted permission, it will mean a loss of fields that currently grow food, contribute to our local economy, and help keep farming skills alive in our area. Once these panels go up, that farmland is lost for decades, maybe permanently. In a rural community like ours. That loss isn't abstract. It directly affects neighbors, friends, and the fabric of our community. We are told that spring will solar farm will increase biodiversity.

00:01:49:13 - 00:02:20:18

It is nature's ability to adapt that causes any increase. Not filling acres of farmland with solar panels. We will lose the visual connection with nature. The very connection that we were encouraged to find to get through the dark days of Covid. The visual impact cannot be overstated. These fields are our

views. The backdrop to our everyday lives. Open spaces that will be scarred with miles of glass panels, security fencing and intrusive CCTV.

00:02:21:03 - 00:02:51:24

Fundamentally changing how it feels to live here from peaceful, natural, balanced environment to something far more industrial and enclosed. Indeed, I have concerns relating to the junction at Warren Lane in the A15. As a motorist, the view will be obscured by security fencing. The stretch of road from Warren Lane to Talbot Cottages is already notorious for motoring accidents, with the local authority taking some remedial action. Springwood Solar Farm will blight our every day.

00:02:52:11 - 00:03:35:08

There is also the importance of the aspect that you can't see the underground aquifer that exists across this area. Do we allow that to be put in jeopardy to the World Health Organization guidance regarding the safe distance to live from a solar farm is approximately 1.3 miles. Viewing current plans. This development will be less than a quarter of a mile from my property. No one will discuss health implications. Are we going to be the human guinea pigs? As a human being, I request my right for my family and I to live safely and healthily, free from stress, worry and harassment this development is causing.

00:03:35:20 - 00:04:14:05

My mental health has suffered and I liken it to grief. Many of the people here today will no doubt have had the same experience. Shock, anger, denial, huge sense of loss, and the acute realization that everything they hold dear could be gone, sacrificed for the benefit of nothing else but greedy individuals and companies. Cowards who hide behind expensive PR and legal representatives. Where is the accountability for clearing up the detritus left by spring? Well, it will fall to generations to come to decommission and dispose of these sites.

00:04:14:17 - 00:04:45:16

As we've seen, these solar farms go on to be sold to investors who are purely motivated by financial gain. Where will the millions of solar panels go when no longer needed? Left is a monument to abandoned engineering or put on a ship to a faraway country. Gathering is an environmental disaster. The planning and permissions for solar farms that should be halted. Developers and indeed ministers made accountable in a court of law for their actions.

00:04:46:00 - 00:04:58:09

If they are able at the start, they must be accountable. At the end, I hope. But we do still have hope that spring will solar farm will be rejected. Thank you.

00:05:02:21 - 00:05:07:02

Okay. Thank you, Mr. Johnson. Um, next up, we have Stella Rye, please.

00:05:20:12 - 00:05:23:16

I think your ten minutes will start when you begin. Thank you.

00:05:24:12 - 00:05:54:18

Mr. Chairman. Ladies, gentlemen and councilors. My name is Stella Reed, and I represent Ashby de la Lune, two blocks home, and Temple Borough Parish Council. This parish lies on the outskirts of the proposed Springvale Solar Farm. The planning system for solar farms and battery and energy storage units best appear to be heavily tilted in favour of the applicants, who have deep pockets and teams of expert legal support knowing the financial return is guaranteed and highly lucrative.

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At the same time, local government intervention through local planning policies is excluded. Objections we fear are being deliberately muted.

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I'm going to talk about the community of impacts of the government's plans to develop multiple huge solar farms across Lincolnshire. Together with this in Nathan Bay, we feel it is vital to consider all related applications as a whole to fully understand the two impacts. The total scale of which is unprecedented and unreported by central government. To start, I'd like to highlight a lack of available information, including detailed economic justification.

00:06:37:05 - 00:07:16:06

We haven't seen any business plans, budgets, forecast, net climate change predictions or any benefit analysis, plus the totality of development profile. How many hectares are going to be used in total across Lincolnshire and indeed the diligence of the evaluation measures. Why are alternatives excluded? As an example, the advertised houses to benefit from solar energy figures. How are these figures actually calculated? Are they annual? Do they represent a single sunny day? And what inherent efficiency rate is assumed in a solar panel? We just don't know.

00:07:18:05 - 00:07:50:13

We are witnessing more and more solar farms. Joining the long list already in the system talks of additional best applications, the lifespan of developments being extended from 25 years, and the original promotional material to 60 years. This means that the seemingly late introduction of compulsory purchase measures and reference to connection points included within current plans, bringing site boundaries into question. Looking at the They agreed and proposed developments to date.

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We believe the opposition group 7000 acres who seek solar on roofs, not land, are missing a zero.

00:07:59:20 - 00:08:27:04

If sacrificing agricultural land prioritize solar is such a golden opportunity. Why are the details proving the justification of need not being shared with the general public? It appears we only have sight of a very small proportion of the government's intentions. As such, we don't have a true understanding of the complete picture as regards the solar invasion of Lincolnshire. How can this be viewed as a fair and just consultation?

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Moving on to best, which have their own issues. Although being promoted as being green energy, we believe this is simply not the truth. Due to limited storage capacity, meaning even on sunny days, only

a few hours of energy can be stored when it is not sunny and the energy created by solar has been used, but are used to buy and sell energy produced by a mixture of other sources, including gas and nuclear. However, the benefits of this industrial trading operation failed to be promoted and most significantly less pose real fire risks.

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We see a barely regulated industry with battery containers included, intended for neighbor B being an emergency city emergency situation waiting to happen. Moving on. The primary reason why these plans should be stopped is a prime use is the use of prime agricultural land and the need to maintain food security, which is fundamentally important to the UK economy and the future health of our nation. Lincolnshire produces approximately one eighth of all food grown in the UK.

00:09:39:05 - 00:09:51:03

Reduced domestic food production will increase the UK's reliance on imports, generating a negative carbon footprint, inflating prices, and increasing the risk of food supply disruption.

00:09:52:15 - 00:10:26:04

In addition to food security fears, flooding risks. Already, a major problem within Lincolnshire will be increased by the industrialisation of farmland due to surface water, surface water runoff and the land's reduced ability to absorb water. Naturally, we also feel there is a danger to road users in the area, namely glare from the glass and eyes off the road. No confirmation of screening. Trees have been seen to date, nor any recognition at screening. Miles of roadside panels will take decades to establish.

00:10:27:10 - 00:11:00:12

We foresee that local businesses will suffer and job losses will result, impacting our rural communities and economies. It is not just the hard working farmers who will suffer. Currently, scene harvesting every evening until dusk, but the services that support them, including agricultural contractors, garages, transportation and supplies. In addition, our beautiful countryside as it becomes industrialized, our tourist numbers will inevitably reduce, impacting tourist attractions and hospitality.

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Our whole way of life is at risk.

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Sadly, mental health issues within local communities would seem inevitable for the following reasons. Watching a productive and beautiful land, air, farmland being replaced with industrialization with huge negative visual impacts, the impact on the housing market, plus cultural heritage and farming traditions. The presence of security, fencing, lighting and CCTV. We fear suicide rates and impacts on NHS services will result.

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In conclusion, there are no argument. There is no argument that would justify the damage caused by large scale solar farms in Lincolnshire.

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The UK has less than 1% of the global carbon emissions. Any contribution by solar will have a tiny impact. While the net gain is called into question when, at the cost of rural Lincolnshire, we fail to be convinced.

00:12:07:07 - 00:12:39:04

Of the justification net carbon gain, or that the negative impacts are fully understood and wholly integrated into the proposals. We are not against solar in principle, but it must be developed on roof space and brownfield sites. But being no doubt, we are unanimously opposed to the Springvale Solar Farm and have genuine fears for the community of impacts of multiple related developments. I look forward to being able to provide further details tomorrow at the issue specific meeting.

00:12:39:06 - 00:12:45:06

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share our views. We sincerely hope that some of the points raised will be given consideration.

00:12:46:06 - 00:12:47:14

Okay. Thank you very much.

00:12:50:13 - 00:12:58:08

Thank you very much for coming into this evening. Thank you. Okay. Next up I have, uh, Richard Durant's. Please. I think it might be virtually.

00:13:00:01 - 00:13:08:07

There we go. Ladies and gentlemen. Thank you. We can see you. That's good. Um, your five minutes will begin when you start. Thank you.

00:13:09:01 - 00:13:44:01

Ladies and gentlemen, my name is Richard Durant, and I live in the middle of what is detailed as Spring World Central in the proposed development. The first. The points detailed in the next few minutes are both from me and my wife, Allison. Firstly, I would like to state I'm not against solar energy production. However, it needs to be in the right location and I for one, don't believe that good irrigated BMV farmland is the place. It's the easy option for developers such as EDF and Spring Well to walk all over the lives of local residents in this cash rich opportunity that will not save the planet or deliver cheaper energy for us.

00:13:45:05 - 00:14:20:07

Solar should be on rooftops, brownfield sites or industrial locations like it's done in the rest of the developed world. Having lived in the local area for all of my life, Alison and I moved to our current home just over ten years ago for the rural countryside community and life we wanted. The landowners were more than happy to sell these properties and market on that basis. Having been involved in local flooding issues, I can talk from experience and I fear the downstream villages of Digby, Ralston and Scott Wick as it will be much worse in future for them if this proposal goes ahead.

00:14:21:02 - 00:14:51:10

It's interesting to note the comment from a meeting this morning where panels will be placed 25m from the roads. Second point we have operated registered microlight airfield site for private use of

light aircraft, microlight ultralight and para motors. During the ownership of the property. We have never had any concerns whilst doing so. And the safety of the site has always been our major priority. We have several concerns over the area going forward if the proposal proposed, industrialisation is allowed to proceed.

00:14:51:13 - 00:15:29:12

We approach spring well from the very early stages and the Spring World team visited our site. We have had several discussions with the Civil Aviation Authority being involved and how we can remain a safe operation with the proposed solar development. Our site for some reason was missed in the initial glint and glare study. The site is detailed in ENR 5.5 aerial sporting and Recreational Activities. Some progress and mitigation were made, however, the introduction of large scale solar in the surrounding um will make our operation less safe than the current status with our rural open plan agricultural landscape.

00:15:29:21 - 00:16:03:07

The proximity of solar arrays will cause glinting glare concerns and the page of our simulation data confirm that the proposed fenced area. Also have safety implications on the operation of the airfield site, compared with the open fields around us today. Effects of engine failure on takeoff, thermal plume turbulence and the effects of air on rescue and firefighting services. An area of 1000m off aerodrome. RF area as detailed in the CAS documents. That's the combined aerodrome safeguarding team.

00:16:03:12 - 00:16:33:21

This document refers to Solar Development guidance notes and is dated July 2023. The potential of EMI electromagnetic interference and the effects upon communication, navigation and surveillance need to be considered and addressed. Nothing detailed today apart from it will be okay and meet industry standards in line with the CAS guidelines. Section four. The developers should provide the aerodrome operator with adequate technical and safety assurance documentation to date.

00:16:33:23 - 00:17:04:02

All I. All I have is a glint and glare study. Theoretical model and a statement on rotor turbulence from wind turbines. I don't understand what the significance of that is. Page of power has stated any turbulence is only like a small building. I'm not sure I can accept acres of solar panels or similar to a small building. Can you? In section 3.13.6, developers should apply the same principles for safety assurance for unlicensed aerodromes and airfield as required by the CAS policy.

00:17:04:11 - 00:17:29:04

In a non-technical summary from spring well in section 1.2.5. It states no area of spring well will be used for solar panels within one kilometre. Well, that's 1000m in my calculation. I do not believe that's correct, as the panels to the north are only 350m away from the runway. Thanks for your time to listen to my concerns, and feel free to contact me, to direct, to discuss in detail.

00:17:34:11 - 00:17:41:21

Okay. Thank you very much. Mr. Durant's for your contribution this evening. Okay. Next up we have Marianne Overton, please.

00:17:50:01 - 00:17:53:00

Thank you. Your ten minutes will begin when you start. Thank you.

00:17:56:15 - 00:18:03:03

Thank you very much. And thank you very much for your time and interest and and good questioning that we've heard today. Um.

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Hugely appreciated.

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The problem here.

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Is the size and scale.

00:18:09:10 - 00:18:40:23

Of these developments concentrated in this area. If you take the three developments together, the spring well, the Oder and Foss Green is just under 10,000 acres, which is huge. It's much greater than the whole of the city of Lincoln. And that houses 110,000 people to live and work. So if you think about use of land, putting this under solar.

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Occupied by global industries paid for with high electricity prices that are maintained for their benefit. That will maintain extra high among the highest in in the world, even on the best agricultural land. While roofs lie vacant is just daft. There are 630,000 acres of commercial roof lying empty.

00:19:14:17 - 00:19:56:03

This equipment is outdated. Not only am I a district and county councillor, I also represent European local governments on energy and I have been to the producers of solar panels, and I have looked at the most up to date equipment and the stuff that is viable, operational and inaction. Even now, there is no it's the idea of occupying land when it could be on roofs, walls, down the middle of railways, over car parks, down the middle of motorways, even when even glass makes electricity.

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So the the this is already outdated. And to think that we are going to occupy land, hand it over to global companies so that we can't get it back if the situation changes

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is just daft. Even if the land currently is used for energy crops, it can be put back to food the following year. But if it is given over to these global companies, that option is removed and this is taken out of the food chain altogether.

00:20:34:21 - 00:21:07:19

I'm also unhappy with the site criteria. There is an expectation that they would have a sequential test in the government are talking about that, but I don't see that here. I understand that the this the this

could have been anywhere. The, um, the grid could have been anywhere along the long line. The grid connection, um, from him on right from the hymenium down to the coffin. But why choose the middle of nowhere? Effectively, there's no no connection there at all now.

00:21:08:08 - 00:21:37:01

And then suddenly you have to create all this infrastructure. If that was built next to the industry, who needed the energy, if it was on an industrial site, particularly if it was on the roofs. All this infrastructure wouldn't even be needed. So this going down this route, which is expensive and giving over our land to a foreign or global organizations, is just the wrong direction.

00:21:39:05 - 00:22:08:23

The point about the landscape character I did talk about earlier, but the really important point is that we are a series, a chain, a dotted set of jewels of conservation villages set in rural countryside, in rural landscape, open rural landscape. That is the nature of our area, and that's why it is so significant to try to cover it with industrial

00:22:10:19 - 00:22:11:12

solar.

00:22:13:05 - 00:22:16:16

It changes the nature of the landscape so much.

00:22:19:10 - 00:22:50:04

And that that is damaging the point. I'm going to pick up the other point about the economy and tourism, which we haven't discussed much yet. The the farming economy creates a considerable I think it's 2 billion directly. Plus there's all the knock on impact and makes a we call ourselves the the breadbasket of UK with a food valley, with 24% of the jobs attached to agriculture. This is going in the wrong direction.

00:22:50:07 - 00:23:12:19

This is abusing our most valued assets. The land here is good value. It's among the best in the country and it's the best in the world. Even when there are competitions every year as to which land is where you can get the best crops in the whole world, it's New Zealand or Lincolnshire. Year after year,

00:23:14:17 - 00:24:00:07

the tourism that we in that that is here is some £2.9 billion worth. And that's important too because why do people come to Lincolnshire? It's not to to watch the solo. Not to watch look. Not to look at solar panels. It's because it's an attractive rural countryside with lovely villages and indeed a nice city. So the impact of the changing that nature of the landscape to industry will be extremely damaging to our economy and indeed put a number of farms out of business because either the remaining farm is not viable or they are tenant farmers who've been removed for minimal compensation.

00:24:02:09 - 00:24:30:16

The waste that I am concerned about also, there is no waste, um, no ability to get rid of these, to recycle, rather when these panels need to be replaced. So there's decommissioning, but there's also decommissioning if they're really going to do that. I don't know if they would because it's so out of

date, but nevertheless that no permission should be given or not allowed to start until these questions are resolved.

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The point about the aquifer has been made, and this is vital because water is an increasingly

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risky resource. Either we get too much or we get too little with the way things are. And it does mean that the we have to be. If these batteries do explode, as they frequently do, and the likelihood of that happening increases with the number of batteries that you have lithium batteries. And we have vast numbers proposed in our area. So the likelihood of that is increased. And that is worrying.

00:25:12:12 - 00:25:45:02

The point that they again, no permission should be given until they can prove that they're going to be able to put out those flames without damaging the aquifer. The suggestion that they're going to have vast areas of concrete that will try and capture the water, but then the water, the amount of water they say they need to put the to cool down the neighboring, uh, boxes. That amount of water is greater than the amount of space they've got to have to, to collect it to in the lagoons.

00:25:45:12 - 00:25:59:01

So there is seriously serious worries about the way in which that is being happening. And that's why, again, no permission should be or not allowed to start until these questions are completely resolved.

00:26:01:09 - 00:26:35:21

So in conclusion, it is a really valuable environment. This the landscape is extremely important both to our economy and both economically, to our agriculture and to tourism, And also to the character of the land. And the way people see themselves. And I think that's really what we feel is being attacked. It's our sense of identity as well. We feel that we do live in a attractive villages set in rural landscape.

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So it's vital that this area is protected. And I think it's vital that this I strongly urge the inspectorate to object and refuse this application.

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Completely. Thank you.

00:26:58:09 - 00:27:07:05

Thank you, Miss Overton, for for coming this evening. Thank you. Okay. Next I have Lisa Cronin. Please, if you'd like to come forward.

00:27:15:12 - 00:27:20:04

Okay. And your five minutes will begin when you're ready. Thank you. Thank you.

00:27:22:10 - 00:27:24:07

Hello. My name is Lisa Cronin.

00:27:24:09 - 00:27:25:07

And I live in Nathan.

00:27:25:09 - 00:27:25:24

B.

00:27:26:01 - 00:27:37:05

I'm here to object to the proposal. Not just as a single project, but it's for cumulative impact on our landscape, our wildlife, and our communities. If approved.

00:27:37:07 - 00:27:37:22

We.

00:27:37:24 - 00:27:48:08

Would bring a large scale industrial development to what is currently open rural countryside. The transformation would be immediate and dramatic. When we now see.

00:27:48:10 - 00:27:49:04

Green fields and.

00:27:49:06 - 00:28:12:13

Tranquility, we would see instead of solar panels, security fencing, substations and battery storage compounds. Let's be absolutely clear this is not just an energy project. It is a fundamental change in the character of the place. And what makes this even more concerning is the precedent it sets. Spring well is just.

00:28:12:15 - 00:28:13:08

One of 12.

00:28:13:10 - 00:28:19:00

Similar proposals in the area. If this goes ahead, it will likely open the floodgates to a wave of.

00:28:19:02 - 00:28:19:22

Developments.

00:28:19:24 - 00:28:47:11

Resulting in the cumulative industrialisation of our countryside in North Kesteven. This will permanently alter the environment for at least 20,000 residents. The roads we drive on, the fields we walk through, and the open views that give our area its identity or will be affected. This change would not just impact our surroundings. It would affect our mental wellbeing and our connection to a place for generations to come.

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Policy S40 of the Central.

00:28:51:00 - 00:28:51:15

Lincolnshire.

00:28:51:17 - 00:29:23:19

Local Plan requires developments to promote wellbeing and minimize harm to communities. Spring well fails that test. We're also talking about a site rich in wildlife and biodiversity. These birds are regularly home to red kites, a schedule one protected species and the Wildlife and Countryside Act. I often see them whilst out walking in the area. Bats, owls, deer, hares and ground nesting birds also rely on this land, all of which will be displaced or threatened by this development.

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The national Planning Policy framework is clear. Developments must minimise harm to biodiversity and deliver net gains. This proposal does neither in fact fragments habitats, disturbs flight paths and removes vital foraging areas. It also conflicts directly with policy 60 of the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan, which states that proposals must conserve and enhance biodiversity and must not result in the deterioration of irreplaceable habitats.

00:29:55:21 - 00:30:06:20

Then there's the loss of agricultural land. This site sits on grade two and three land, classified as best and most versatile. We are supposed to recognise this value of this land.

00:30:06:22 - 00:30:07:12

For.

00:30:07:14 - 00:30:16:03

Food production, natural capital and wider ecosystem services. this. Replacing it with metal and fencing. Undermines those benefits and ignores.

00:30:16:05 - 00:30:16:20

The long.

00:30:16:22 - 00:30:27:22

Term economic and environmental value of good farmland. But beyond the policies, those are human cost. These fields are not just empty spaces they use daily by.

00:30:27:24 - 00:30:28:14

Local.

00:30:28:16 - 00:31:06:16

People. Myself and my family included tourists to the area for walking, exercise and mental health. Access to nature reduces stress and anxiety and isolation. Fence it off. Industrialize it and you don't just change the view. You remove a lifeline for community well-being. Yes, we need renewable energy, but it must be appropriately located on rooftops, on brownfield land and through distributed systems. It cannot come at the cost of our most valued landscapes, our best and most versatile land, our food security, our wildlife, or our communities now and in the future.

00:31:07:11 - 00:31:08:12

Springvale is not.

00:31:08:14 - 00:31:09:04

Green.

00:31:09:06 - 00:31:26:15

Energy if it comes at this price, it is not sustainable. If it sacrifices biodiversity and community health and it is not responsible planning if it opens the door to further development across our countryside in North Kesteven. I respectfully urge you to refuse this proposal. Thank you.

00:31:30:08 - 00:31:37:00

Okay. Thank you very much, Miss Cronin. Okay. Next up, I have Michael Credlin, please.

00:31:47:10 - 00:31:48:02

Thank you. Chairman.

00:31:48:04 - 00:31:51:16

Thank you. And your five minutes will start when you begin. Thank you.

00:31:52:04 - 00:32:26:15

Michael Credlin, local resident, spent over 70 years walking these open fields with family, with grandchildren, nature walks, horse riding and so on. So why do the applicants and landowners wish to totally decimate some six square miles of open countryside where public footpaths criss cross and wildlife thrives. This land is fertile, rich in diversity and has been farmed for 6000 years. They have the audacity of calling their proposal a solar farm.

00:32:26:24 - 00:33:08:14

Far from it. This is a solar factory industrializing and sterilizing the land for mile after mile, with feel enough to feel covered by six foot high manmade plastic and glass monstrosities. There's no mention in their colored brochure or shown in their pretty pictures. The massive visual impact these panels will have during the winter months, when the trees and hedges have lost their leaves and the sun rarely shines. The 2023 Central Lincolnshire Local Plan states under policies 51 to 67, that the aim of the plan is to set out plans and policies that help create places that are Sustainable and attractive to living.

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Central Lincolnshire has a varied and contrasting natural environment. Major landscape scale initiatives are proposed to restore and enhance the area's ecological networks and corridors. The applicants have failed to demonstrate how they will fully address these policies. The modern day religion of climate change is referred to, but the reasons for it are still to be proved. The climate has been changing for 4.5 billion years, with an ice age some 12,000 years ago.

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There is nothing EDF, King Canute Miliband or Greta Thunberg can do about it. Reach church has been undertaken by Valentina Zhukova at Northumbria University, predicting with 97% accuracy that because of a significant reduction in solar activity, a mini ice age could hit the Earth by the 2030s or

40s. It is well known that the sun is subject to recurring cycles of sunspots and massive solar flares, which directly affect weather patterns on Earth.

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And as for carbon net zero, the amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere is 0.04%. This again has fluctuated since time began, and again, scientists cannot agree on the reasons. What is known is that below zero zero 2% trees and plants will disappear. The proposal is to install some 3 million panels, supported by metal frames sunk into the ground and encase with concrete.

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Nearly 90% of these panels are manufactured in China using fossil fuels. The suggestion that 3600 acres of these panels will supply enough energy to power 180,000 homes and reduce annual energy costs, else is pure Sufism, and even Miliband has made a U-turn. In reality, they will produce about enough energy to half boil a kettle. These panels are very expensive. Some dependent destroy wildlife. Inefficient, unreliable, out of date and require backup systems inevitably using fossil fuels.

00:35:23:21 - 00:35:59:15

One minute. The only thing these guarantee to generate is huge profits for the applicants and the landowners, and no mention is made of the government subsidies and incentives given to them. EDF, by the way, is owned by the French government, once defunct. The applicants have did not make it past. The applicants have not demonstrated how they intend to dispose of these panels, which are almost impossible to recycle, or how they will grow up the concrete foundations. It is suggested that EDF should their solar panels where the sun doesn't shine.

00:36:08:17 - 00:36:17:04

I think he, uh. Mr. Elvin, I think his next step. Um, I haven't seen him here today, or I don't think he's online. So,

00:36:18:19 - 00:36:23:17

uh, in that case, Chesney Smith, if you'd like to come forward.

00:36:25:15 - 00:36:33:23

No. Okay. In that case, uh, Shaun Matthews, please. Would you like to come forward?

00:36:42:12 - 00:36:46:17

Thank you. Chair. Okay. Thank you. And your ten minutes will start when you're ready. Thank you.

00:36:47:11 - 00:37:18:17

My name is Sean Matthews. I'm the leader of Lincolnshire County Council, and I am absolutely chuffed to bits to follow the last speaker. Um, he could have said pretty much everything I've got down here. He did, in fact, say everything that got down here. So, uh, it's very, very encouraging to hear. I hope you're listening, because the people behind me are brave, brokenhearted, and absolutely distraught. What you are planning to do to our beautiful countryside.

00:37:20:15 - 00:37:55:23

You are taking the best and most versatile land and destroying it. And you're destroying it for possibly 10 or 15 years. Because in 10 or 15 years we will have small modular nuclear reactors that will replace them. It is a folly. And you should stop doing this right now. You should withdraw right now. If it isn't 10 or 15 years, it would be in about four years when hopefully we've got a government that will stop this in its tracks.

00:37:56:03 - 00:37:59:17

And if I'm involved in that government, I will stop it.

00:38:01:05 - 00:38:34:24

All you got to do is follow the money. It is heartbreaking to think that there is a government at the moment that is so foolhardy on doing this type of thing, that it takes up forces through these solar farms. Sorry, solar factories, because I'm corrected today. Because you're absolutely right. They are not solar farms. They are factories destroying this countryside and this county. But they are pushing through these solar factories. It is absolutely ridiculous.

00:38:35:16 - 00:38:40:00

And these nonsense, crazy ideas need to stop.

00:38:42:01 - 00:39:15:09

You have to look at the clearness of effect of what is happening to this fantastic county of Lincolnshire. I absolutely adore this place and I'm so proud to be the leader of this county council. We have 24 insects in Lancashire at the moment. These things were designed for very, very rare and unusual events, like, for example, the first one that was ever created was for terminal five at Heathrow. Understandably, a very rare and unique occurrence.

00:39:15:14 - 00:39:28:20

We got 24 of them. It is disgusting that the government of this one in the previous government have decided to use this facility to run roughshod over the countryside.

00:39:31:03 - 00:40:01:17

Then how can we put them on our roofs? How can we say that it is okay for us to put them on our roofs or in the brownfield sites? I completely reject them myself. I think they are very ineffective. A complete waste of money. There is plenty of opportunity for us to develop small nuclear plants, and I hope in the future that we will do so. We in Lincolnshire do not need more electricity. We need to create food. That is what this this countryside is developed for.

00:40:01:21 - 00:40:32:16

And that is what we should carry on farming. I really, really reject that. This county needs to create electricity for the London Underground, which is exactly what it's doing. Let them build a nuclear power plant down in Tilbury docks. That's where it's needed. It's not needed up here. We want to walk our dogs through our countryside. We want to take our children and grandchildren for walks and ride our horses. Leave us to that. Please, chairman, listen to what's being said.

00:40:33:01 - 00:40:48:01

Trust me, as a council, we will fight this every step of the way. And every other solar design that's coming along. It's not wanted here. It's not needed here. And it will be outdated very, very soon. Thank you very much.

00:40:52:23 - 00:41:04:00

Okay. Thank you, Mr. Matthews. And we have one speaker left. Um, David Crampton, I think you've let us know that you'd like to speak to this evening. Thank you.

00:41:07:09 - 00:41:11:14

Thank you. Thank you. David Crampton, a resident of North Kesteven.

00:41:11:16 - 00:41:13:09

Thank you. Your five minutes will start when you're ready.

00:41:13:11 - 00:41:53:12

Thank you. Thank you. There are three points. I would like to suggest that the inspector may wish to seek clarity from the applicant, and indeed, maybe government. The first one is a cumulative effect, which I spoke about earlier. It is reasonable to conclude that further develop solid votes will come forward. That is supported by the twice weekly update of the Tech Register, and also the amount of apparently allocated connections on some of the proposed infrastructure. This is starting to look a bit like an unregulated environment, with developers spotting into opportunities and putting this in their business plan as an investment.

00:41:54:02 - 00:42:26:10

So my question there is can we can clarity be sought on how many developments are going to come forward in this area so that a proper cumulative assessment of the cumulative effects can be made? My second point is there appears to be a lack of clarity on need. Emerging reports suggest that current plans for solar farms will exceed the requirements. This starts to look like a plan where there is no overview and of structure, and are looking at what our needs are.

00:42:26:12 - 00:42:59:04

So therefore, can I suggest that clarity needs to be sought on the amount of electricity we need from solar panels, and indeed the amount that's going to be provided by the current plans? My third point is I think we need to have a better understanding of decommissioning. We're told the land will be returned to agriculture. Putting aside the effects, the detrimental effects on the land structure from solar panels being placed on them. There's a suggestion that decommissioning doesn't include removing assets in the ground.

00:42:59:21 - 00:43:29:24

It's hard to see our land can be used for agriculture if concrete and steel remains. And indeed, the questions about land drainage early on clearly will be very clear to me that it actually does understand our landowners works in fields because it will be destroyed by the installation of solar panels. Therefore, my point is, can we see clarity on what decommissioning looks like? And indeed, if sufficient of the in-ground assets are going to be removed for the land to be turned to agriculture? Thank you.

00:43:35:04 - 00:43:50:09

Okay. Thank you, Mr. Crampton. Okay. Before I ask the applicant for their response, is there anyone who might have changed their mind or wishes to speak? Hmm. Okay. Thank you. If you could come forward.

00:43:56:17 - 00:44:01:15

Okay. If you could just introduce yourself and your five minutes will start when you're ready. Thank you.

00:44:01:17 - 00:44:23:20

I'm Frances Innes. I live in Nairobi. I haven't come prepared. What I wanted to do is to say, please, please have some common sense and listen to the villagers and the residents. I'm completely devastated. What's going on? I live in November, and I've got two proposals that.

00:44:23:22 - 00:44:24:20

I don't want.

00:44:24:24 - 00:44:25:24

We don't need.

00:44:26:02 - 00:44:37:19

I think we'll have a short ten minute adjournment. Um, and then we'll come back and ask the applicant for their replies to what we've heard this evening. Okay. We'll come back at 27. Thank you.

00:45:59:17 - 00:46:17:04

Okay, it's 7:20, so we will resume, please. Okay. We're now turned to the response. Any response from the applicant, please? Um, this can either be given orally or in writing at deadline three, if orally. Um, in terms of fairness, we will limit it to 15 minutes. Please.

00:46:19:00 - 00:46:24:00

Miss Coleman, for the applicant. Thank you. I'll use about 30s of that time. Um, appreciating.

00:46:24:02 - 00:47:07:24

That this is a hearing about, um, people being able to put forth their views and more about us listening. So my response will reflect that. Um, I just want to thank everyone for attending. Um, we are here, the applicant is here, and we've heard what's been said. We take all the comments very seriously, and we thank everyone for sharing their views with us. Um, so that people are aware. There's various technical points that were raised and they appear on the agendas for the hearings tomorrow and on Thursday. Those include human health and wellbeing, agricultural land, um, best waste and recyclability, uh, traffic, tourism, groundwater, biodiversity, flood risk, including the sequential test, um cumulative and working with other developers.

00:47:08:05 - 00:47:38:10

Uh, we welcome those points being put on the agenda. We'll have our experts here to deal with those points, and we will put the submissions made at those hearings in writing for those who can't attend in today's hearing in detail, with points around noise and vibration, landscape and visual and glinting

glare. And again, we'll summarize those submissions in writing at deadline three for people who weren't able to attend. So I would just like to again acknowledge the comments and the depth of feeling that's been expressed this evening. And thank everyone for their heartfelt contributions. Thank you.

00:47:39:21 - 00:48:11:10

Okay. Thank you very much. Okay. That just leaves me to bring a close to the hearing. Um, I'd like to also take the opportunity to thank all the speakers which have taken the time to come and speak to us this evening and provide, uh, passionate and well prepared contributions. Uh, and also those who have been with us all day. It's been a particularly long day. Um, so your attendance, um, to issue and this evening is very much appreciated. Um, can I just remind everybody.

00:48:11:18 - 00:48:37:17

Um, to provide, if you wish, a written version of your your submissions. Um, that can be done at deadline three. Um, which is Tuesday, the 12th of August. Um, along with any further evidence, um, of relevance to the hearings that you may wish to provide. Okay, so the time is now, uh, 722, and the open floor hearing is now closed. Once again, thank you all very much for your time this evening.