

Post-Hearing Submission – Opposition to Springwell Solar Farm

At a recent public meeting, it was deeply distressing to hear that some individuals expressed feeling [REDACTED] over the stress and emotional impact of this proposal. This is not just about land use — it is about the mental health and wellbeing of real people whose lives are being upended.

[REDACTED]. The Secretary of State for Energy must take these voices seriously and understand the profound human toll such developments can have. It is unacceptable that decisions are being made that ignore the deep distress being caused in local communities.

I wish to formally record my opposition to the Springwell Solar Farm proposed on the Blankney Estate.

This development would cover vast areas of unspoiled countryside, with serious implications for food security, wildlife, and the irreversible industrialisation of rural Lincolnshire — a county widely recognised as the breadbasket of the UK.

While labelled as a green solution, large-scale solar farms such as this rely on panels manufactured using fossil fuels, sometimes involving coal-powered processes and [REDACTED], and require replacement every 15–20 years. Many of these panels are not recyclable, and concerns remain over soil contamination beneath the installations. This is far from the clean, sustainable energy narrative being presented.

The impact on local wildlife habitats and biodiversity will be considerable and long-lasting. Once established, these industrial-scale projects displace species, fragment natural ecosystems, and leave behind ecological scars.

On a personal level, I chose to live in this part of Lincolnshire for its peaceful countryside and natural beauty — not to be surrounded by solar panels and fencing. I worked hard for years to realise the dream of living here. This proposal threatens to erode everything rural residents value about their environment.

The idea that this scheme will lower energy bills is unproven and highly questionable. It seems instead to serve as a symbolic gesture toward net zero — one that ignores common sense, long-term cost, and practical alternatives.

If the government insists on pursuing solar, it must focus on:

- Brownfield sites
- Commercial rooftops
- Car parks and already developed land

These are the appropriate locations for such infrastructure — not productive farmland and unspoiled landscapes.

Finally, I would like to know whether a comprehensive decommissioning plan has been funded and guaranteed for future generations. Who will be responsible for ensuring that the land is restored? It is deeply worrying that in 40–60 years, when many of us speaking up are no longer here, there may be no one to hold developers to account.

Common sense must prevail. Please reject this application.