

My Statement to the Springwell Planning Inspector

Thank you for the opportunity to share my concerns. I support renewable energy — but not this 3,500-acre solar factory and BESS, which threatens our land, safety, and future.

Springwell Solar is Industrial Overreach

- 5 square miles of farmland and habitat will be industrialized.
- We lose productive land, wildlife corridors, and our rural identity.
- This is a permanent transformation — not a temporary project.



Environmental vandalism

- Massive land clearing, erosion, and aquifer risk.
 - Panels contain toxic materials and rare earths, often sourced unethically.
 - BESS units pose fire and explosion risks — with no local fire capacity to respond.
 - No independent experts — all paid by the applicant.
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BESS: A Hidden Danger

- 26% of BESS sites have fire suppression issues; 18% have thermal failures.

- Fires release toxic gases and are nearly impossible to extinguish.
- Lincolnshire's fire services are under-resourced and too far away.



No Local Benefit — Just Burden

- Power likely exported; jobs are temporary.
- Community faces noise, traffic, light pollution, and property devaluation.
- EDF's track record raises serious concerns.

Better Alternatives Exist

- Rooftop solar and brownfield sites should be prioritized.
- Don't sacrifice Britain's best farmland for corporate convenience.

I really question the validity of the sequential test conducted for this application

No Accountability, No Guarantees

- Who pays for cleanup in 40 years?
- No decommissioning plan, no financial safeguards, no parental guarantees.
- This project will be sold off — and the community left with the mess.

Grid Connection - Response to ISH4 & CAH1

Key Issues Raised at ISH4 and CAH1 (July 17, 2025)

Applicant's Position: The legal team for Springwell Solar Farm continues to argue that planning consent for the solar farm should be granted before a grid connection is confirmed. This stance has been consistently challenged by Lincolnshire County Council (LCC), North Kesteven District Council (NKDC), local parish councils, action groups and local residents

Contradiction at CAH1: During the Compulsory Acquisition Hearing, the applicant's lawyer admitted they could not confirm the substation's location—essential for grid connection—because it hasn't yet been submitted for planning approval. This undermines their earlier argument that the solar farm should proceed regardless. The National Grid application won't even start its planning process until some time in 2026. National Grid have confirmed their delay.

Grid Connection Uncertainty Navenby Substation Delay: National Grid has confirmed that the planning application for the Navenby substation—critical for connecting Springwell and other solar farms—will not be submitted until early 2026. This means any grid connection is unlikely to be approved or operational within the same year.²

Local and Political Opposition - Unified Local Resistance: At public hearings, not a single resident spoke in favour of the solar farm. Concerns include:

Political Leaders Against the Project:

Local MP Dr. Caroline Johnson has voiced strong opposition.

Lincolnshire County Council has formally objected.

The Greater Lincolnshire Mayor has also expressed disapproval.

Planning Principles at Stake

The argument that the solar farm should be approved without a confirmed grid connection contradicts core planning principles:

Deliverability: A project must be viable and executable.

Certainty: Infrastructure dependencies must be resolved.

Transparency: Misleading stakeholders undermines trust and process integrity.

Landscape & Visuals – Response to ISH2

Springwell Solar Farm Ltd. are selectively presenting visuals that only show landscaped screening of solar panels, while omitting images of more visually intrusive infrastructure such as Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), inverters, and substations.

My Key Concerns:

Misleading Representation: The omission of BESS, inverters, and substations from public visuals creates a distorted perception of the development's true impact.

Visual & Environmental Impact:

BESS containers are industrial in appearance and may require fencing and cooling systems.

Substations and inverters contribute noise, lighting, and electromagnetic fields.

Scale of Development: The applicant mentions needing up to 1300 BESS containers, yet visuals show no BESS illustrations

Transparency Issues: The lack of full disclosure is seen as a deliberate attempt to downplay the development's impact on local communities, particularly residents of Navenby and Toll Bar equestrian farm, who will face daily exposure to these structures.

Biodiversity - Response to ISH3

The applicant makes grossly exaggerated claims around BNG. The Planning Inspector pushed on the issue of grazing. The number of sheep required to graze 3300 acres would be significant. It was clear from the applicant that the fields that are covered in panels will be maintained by chemicals and motorised cutting. This needs to be done to prevent vegetation growing around the panels and infrastructure. There is also the concern around chemical leaching and what impact this could have on limited livestock.

My final plea to the Planning Inspector

You have a choice. Say yes to responsible renewables. Say no to this reckless development.

Protect our land. Protect our community. Reject this application. There is no justification for destroying 3500 acres of the best farmland and also opening the door to much wider industrialisation of this beautiful county.