

Hello

I'm writing to object to the proposed large-scale solar farm planned for Springwell.

Like many people, I support renewable energy—but not at the cost of our countryside, our food-producing farmland, or our local economy. This solar farm is part of a growing number of similar developments in Lincolnshire, and the overall impact on our landscape and livelihoods is getting out of hand.

1. Too Many, Too Fast Lincolnshire is being overwhelmed by large-scale energy developments—solar farms, battery storage, substations, pylons—all arriving with little coordination. Each one might seem acceptable on its own, but together they're changing the face of our countryside. This goes against Paragraph 185 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which says planning decisions should avoid significant adverse cumulative impacts on health and quality of life. In my area alone there are 12 proposed developments, including solar farms, Bess and a sub power station, industrialising it for good!

2. Loss of Farmland

Springwell would be built on good-quality farmland—land that should be growing food. The NPPF (Paragraph 174) says we must protect and enhance soils, especially the best and most versatile land. Once it's covered in panels, it's no longer feeding people or supporting local farming jobs. Food security is just as important as energy security.

3. Harm to the Local Economy and Tourism

People visit Lincolnshire for its peace, views, and rural charm—not to see miles of solar panels and security fencing. This harms local businesses like B&Bs, cafés, and farm shops. The Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (Policy S53) says renewable energy projects must protect the landscape and rural economy—but that's not happening here.

4. Planning and Policy Concerns

This proposal doesn't follow key planning principles:

- NPPF Paragraph 152 says renewable energy must be delivered in a way that addresses adverse impacts.
- NPPF Paragraph 134 gives weight to developments that improve the quality of an area—industrial-scale solar farms in open countryside don't meet that test.
- Local Plan Policy S60 calls for renewable energy to avoid harming biodiversity, landscape character, and the rural economy.

5. What We Need Instead

We need a proper plan that looks at the big picture—not just one application at a time.

The Planning Act 2008 encourages strategic thinking for major infrastructure, but that's not happening here. Until we have a full county-wide assessment of all these projects together, we risk losing what makes my area and Lincolnshire special.

In conclusion, please reject this application. It's not just about this solar farm — it's about the future of our countryside, our food supply, and our communities.

Warm regards

Andrew Cronin