

Hello my name is Lisa Cronin, and I live in Navenby. I'm here to object to the proposal — not just as a single project, but for its cumulative impact on our landscape, our wildlife, and our communities.

If approved, Springwell would bring a large-scale industrial development to what is currently open, rural countryside. The transformation would be immediate and dramatic. Where we now see green fields and tranquillity, we would instead see rows 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 a place.

And what makes this even more concerning is the precedent it sets. Springwell is just one of 12 similar proposals in the area. If this goes ahead, it will likely open the floodgates to a wave of developments, resulting in the cumulative industrialisation of our countryside in North Kesteven.

This would 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 — all 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.

Policy S48 of the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan requires developments to promote wellbeing and minimise harm to communities. Springwell fails that test.

We're also talking about a site rich in wildlife and biodiversity. These fields are regularly home to red kites, a Schedule 1 protected species under 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.

The National Planning Policy Framework is clear: developments must minimise harm to biodiversity and deliver net gains.

This proposal does neither. In fact, it fragments habitat, disturbs flight paths, and removes vital foraging areas.

This also conflicts directly with Policy S60 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.

Then there's the loss of agricultural land. The site sits on Grade 2 and 3 land, classified as Best and Most Versatile.

According to paragraph 174 of the NPPF, we are supposed to recognise the value of this land — for food production, natural capital, and wider ecosystem services. Replacing this with metal and fencing undermines those benefits and ignores the long-term economic and environmental value of good farmland.

Paragraph 180 of the NPPF is also clear: if significant harm to biodiversity can't be avoided or mitigated, planning permission should be refused.

But beyond the policies, there is a human cost. These fields are not just empty spaces — they're used daily by local people, myself and my family included, tourists to the area, for walking, exercise, and mental health. Access to nature reduces stress, anxiety, and isolation. Fence it off, industrialise it, and you don't just change the view — you remove a lifeline for community wellbeing. 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 wildlife, or our communities now and in the future.

Springwell is not green 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 unchecked development across our countryside in North Kesteven.

I respectfully urge you to refuse this proposal.

Warm regards

Lisa Cronin