

Interested Party Reference number: [REDACTED]

Application by Fosse Green Energy Limited for an order granting development consent for Fosse Green Energy

Following the hearings for the project above held at County Assembly Rooms, Lincoln, I would like to submit the following comments and questions.

Firstly, some important background about me. I have been a resident of Thorpe on the Hill for almost 40 years. I was responsible for producing the Environment section of our Neighbourhood Plan, including significant input into the choice of our distinctive views. I also run the village walking group so have a significant interest in the footpaths in our parish. This is the context for my objection to the Fosse Green Energy Limited Application.

Landscape and visual impacts

The impact of this development on Thorpe on the Hill parish would be enormous - greater than that for any of the other villages impacted by the proposal. A friend and fellow resident has done some important work on the area of land that this proposal would take up in our parish. After an analysis of APP 022 Book of Reference and the APP 007 Land Plans he concluded that the percentage of land that would be given over to the proposed development at Thorpe on the Hill is 47%, (51.5 % if the area of water features – lakes and quarries – within our parish boundary is deducted)

This is significantly at odds with our Neighbourhood Plan which is available at

<https://www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/your-community/localism-your-community/neighbourhood-plans/thorpe-hill-neighbourhood-plan-made>

Some relevant sections are given below.

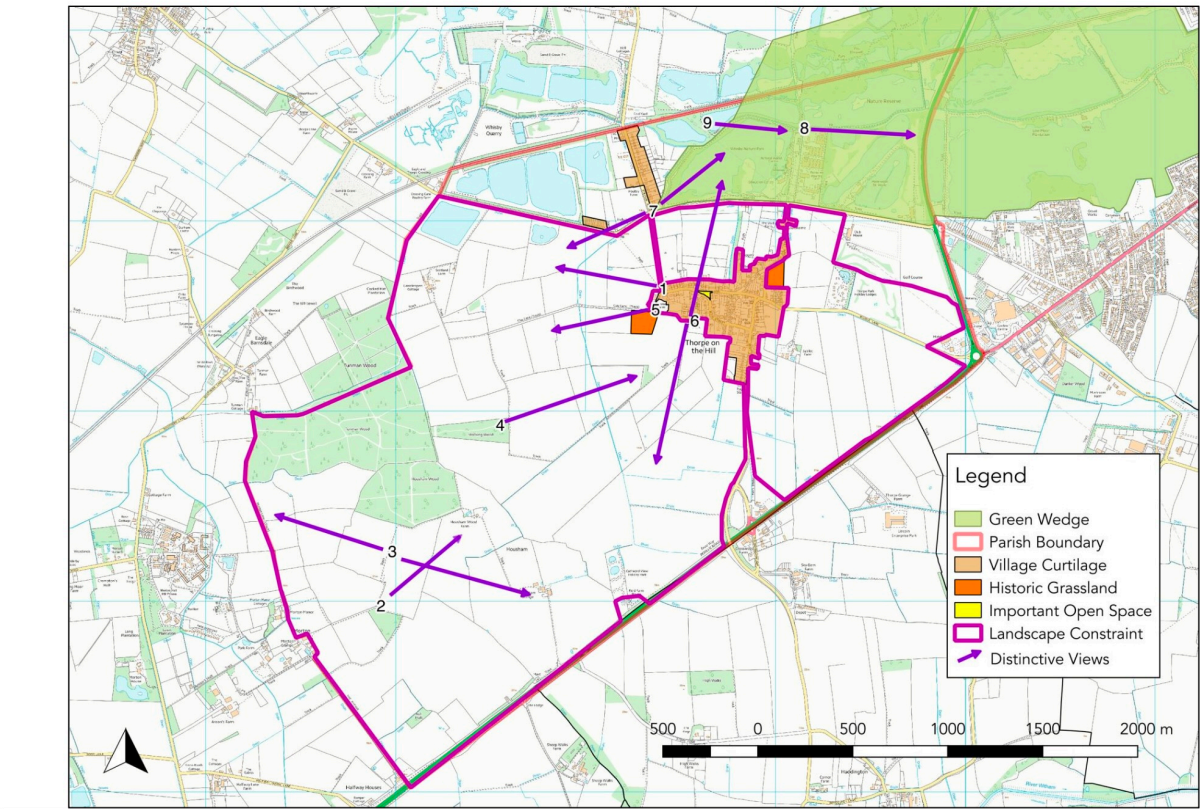
Policy 5 on page 25

Policy 5: Landscape and Views

Development outside the village curtilage should not reduce the separate identity of Thorpe on the Hill by reducing the existing gap between the village curtilage and the A46; and must respect the unique layout and pattern of the enclosure landscape of Thorpe on the Hill, as well as field boundaries such as hedges and trees. Development must also take account of the important views identified on Map 5. The preservation and enhancement of these views will be supported.

Map 5 on Page 27

Map 5: Landscape character and features



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And one of the Distinctive Views (Appendix 2, View 4)



framed by trees.

In particular, I refer to Policy 5 on page 25, Map 5 on page 27 and the photographs of the distinctive views shown in Appendix 2 on pages 40 to 49. The proposal to use extensive areas of parish land would have a significant impact on our Distinctive Views, effectively ruining many of them until 2090 or beyond. Screening will have little bearing on this as the hilltop location means that from many vantage points we will look over the screening and down onto the panels.

If you read the descriptions which go with the photographs in Appendix 2 of the Neighbourhood Plan, it is clear that they have been written with passion. These views mean a lot to the parishioners.

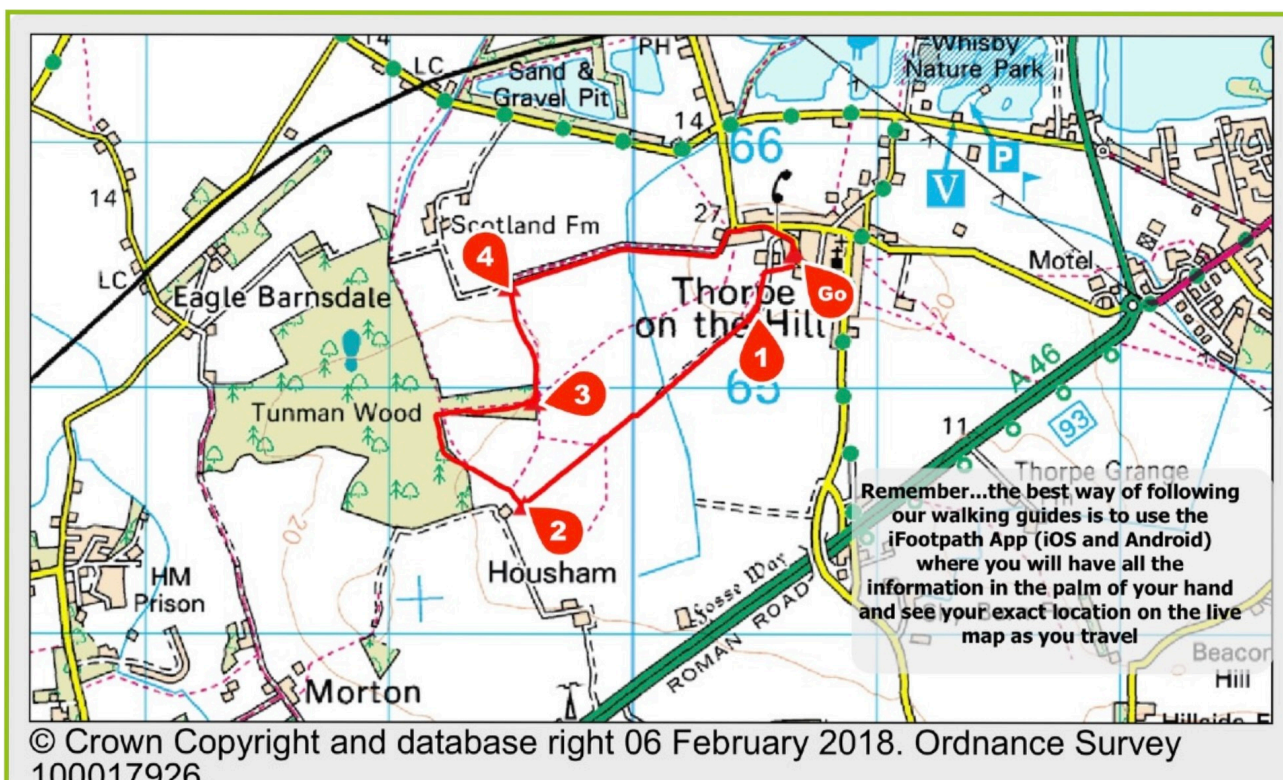
I don't have the IT skills to superimpose the maps labelled 1,2,3 and part of 4 (Document Fosse Green Energy, EN010154, 2.2 Works Plans) onto Map 5 from our Neighbourhood Plan but I do have the skills to have these maps side by side and can recognise what I can only describe as the total devastation of many of our Distinctive Views that the proposal would cause.

In summary, the land use for this scheme in our parish is totally unreasonable. The majority of our Distinctive Views would be ruined.

Question. Has Fosse Green Energy fully considered the effect on the character and appearance of the development on Thorpe on the Hill? What further mitigation could be offered bearing in mind the comments above about screening?

Stepping Out Walk and other footpaths.

NKDC has a series of walks called Stepping Out. One is called Stepping Out, Thorpe on the Hill. This the route.



Almost the entire route of this walk would be adjacent to or within the solar arrays. Fencing and screening would not be mitigation as the height of both will be at least 2 metres. A few years ago, a lot of the area around this walk was planted with maize. As is normal in the first year for this crop it grew very tall, probably 2 metres. This had the effect of making walkers feel closed in, almost as if they were walking through a tunnel. Use of these paths dramatically fell away. The pleasure, previously derived from walking the paths, was a gone. This serves as an excellent example of the detrimental, rather than positive, impact of the mitigation measures proposed for the Fosse Green development in this area.

And the damage won't be confined to this n'Stepping Out walk. There are other popular footpaths in the area eg Eagle Barnsdale to Morton to Housham.

In summary, evidence from the maize crop suggests that the proposed development would significantly reduce the use of these much loved footpaths.

Question. What alternative sites have been considered in detail? Nationally? They don't have to be in Lincolnshire. How can the current plan be altered to move the solar panels to areas where less landscape and amenity damage would be caused?

Regards

Tony Magri

