

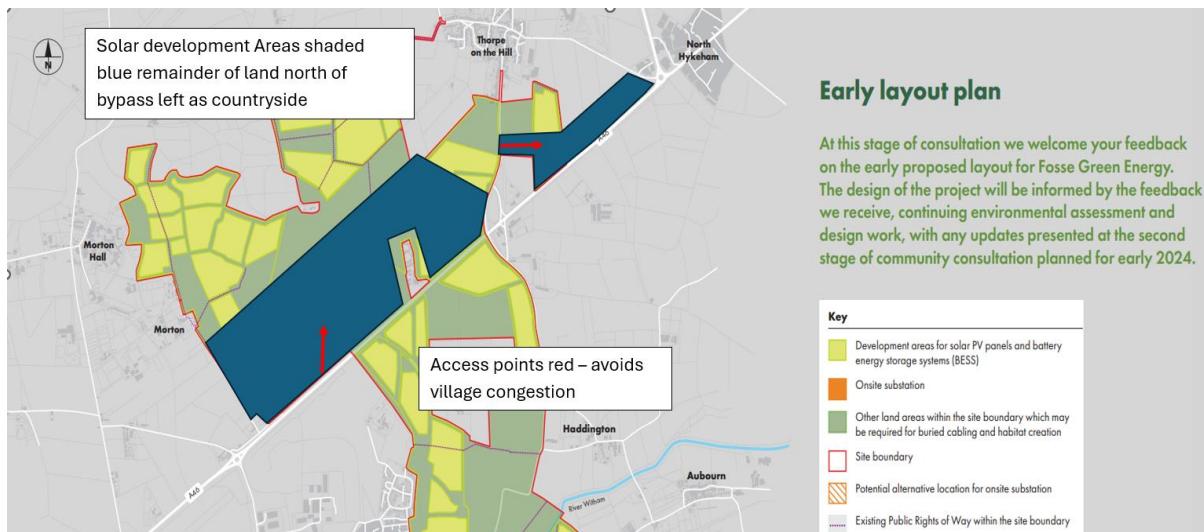
Mark Wheater Interested Party Reference number: [REDACTED]-Resident of Thorpe on the Hill, Written Statement

Discussed at Issue Specific Meeting 1on Wednesday 7th January re Agenda item 3.2
Alternatives to the Proposed Development

I am against the development as the huge scale of the proposed development results in significant adverse impacts to Thorpe on the Hill due to the village being situated on a hill, views of the panels will affect visual amenity for sixty years with an industrialised landscape. The higher proportion of panels from the proposed developed has been placed in Thorpe on the Hill. This is also against our adopted Neighbourhood Plan.

In accordance with EN1 (Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy) the developer should take measures to reduce, mitigate and avoid any adverse impacts by applying good design principles in accordance with the NPS.

An alternative scheme was proposed in APP-029 Environmental Statement, section 4.9 Alternatives Proposed at Statutory Consultation. The proposed scheme is shown below(The area blue was marked on the developer's proposed plan to show the difference as clearly as possible):



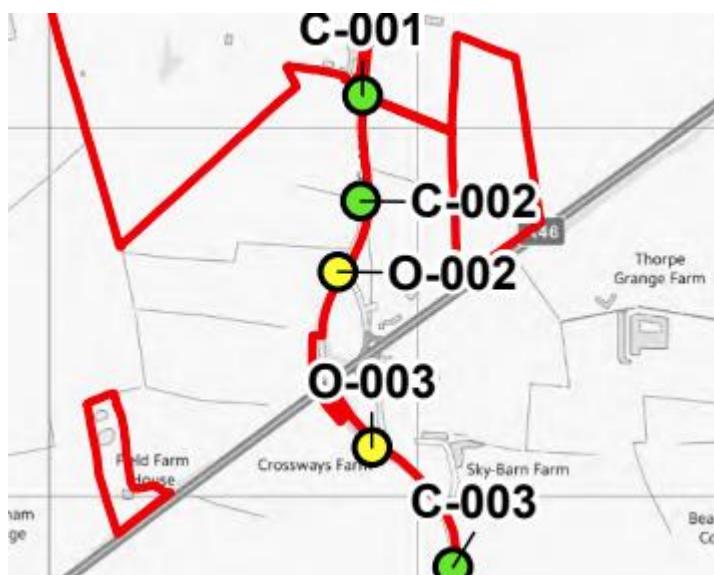
The applicant rejected the proposal on four grounds however, I respectfully do not agree with the developer's reasons for rejecting the alternative site. I have set out the reasons for this below:-

1 The area would result in a reduction of 175MW to 130MW. This reduction can be made up elsewhere within the wider DCO site away from residential houses and be made up from the overplanting ratio of 1.59.

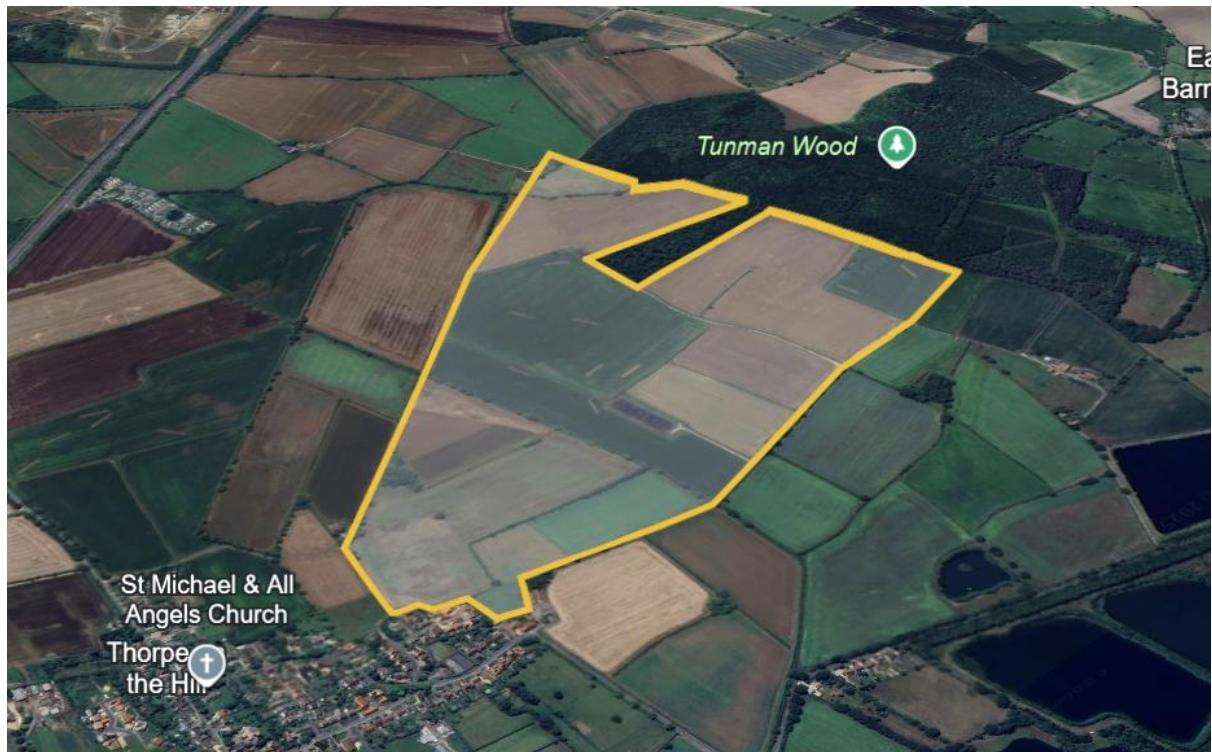
2) The alternative layout does not align with the design vision which is to maximise renewable energy generation across the site. This in my view isn't a design vision in accordance with good design principles in the NPS. A design vision would be to deliver a sustainable scheme which fits into local landscape and is integrated with the local community and which can be valued by all.

3) Some of the solar development area (small area) is outside the DCO and therefore could not be delivered. At the time of consultation, the boundary should not have been finalised before representations were considered and CPO powers exist to secure additional land, therefore this should not have been a reason to reject the proposal. The area concerned is only a small section of land when compared to the wider site.

4) Access from A46. The principle in the alternative scheme was to avoid traffic coming through the village and this could be achieved on the same basis as the applicant's latest scheme and therefore doesn't need to be on the A46 as shown in my alternative design but, could use the access points proposed by the applicant in this application (AS-025 Site Access Location Plan Rev 2 Operational access 0-002) See plan below. My plan would therefore need to be amended to reflect this.



In my view the revised scheme mitigated many of the significant adverse impacts generated by the huge scale of the current scheme and provided Thorpe on the Hill with some protection against an industrialised landscape and protection for the Ancient Woodland- Tunman Wood.



The land edged yellow where it is proposed to install a significant number of solar panels under the applicants scheme is particularly sensitive, as this is the amenity land for the village/wider residents walking to the Ancient Woodland and for key views around Thorpe on the Hill. If Solar panels could be avoided on this area as shown on my proposed scheme, significant adverse effects would be mitigated and quality amenity and landscape maintained.

As stated in the enquiry it was disappointing that the developer did not enter into any pro-active dialogue re. the alternative scheme and simply responded in the application documentation rather than discussing proposals with Thorpe on the Hill residents. We would have welcomed this discussion to try and bring forward a good design and we would still be open to this.

Mark Wheater 19th Jan 2026