

Submission to Planning Inspectorate
Fosse Green Energy - Solar Panels Scheme - Thorpe on the Hill et al
(EN010154/APP/7.2)

1. How can the siting of this solar panels and associated batteries scheme, with its associated land changes and infrastructure be classed as ‘temporary’ when it is designed to be in place for 60 years? Hardly ‘temporary’! Then, how long will decommissioning to reinstate the land to its former land use and condition take – in addition to who will be liable, the know-how to do it, disposal of panels/batteries/containers/removal of additional hedges/tacks and roadways and fencing etc., etc.? We note FGE state that any infrastructure in the ground below 0.9 metres will be left and not removed during the decommissioning process. This, surely, means that the scheme is a permanent feature and cannot in any way be classed as ‘temporary’?

2. Conflict of land use around Stocking Wood area in particular. The land proposed for solar panels is already in use (and has been for some years) for intensive crop growing (239 acres (93.08 hectares) in total) for supplying the crop for the Digester located at South Hykeham for the production of electricity (1). This facility at South Hykeham is of ‘Significant Importance’ as to warrant avoidance of it by re-alignment of Lincoln Eastern Bypass route) (2), construction of which is due to start shortly (early 2026). The fields around Stocking Wood adjacent to Clay Lane in the TOTH area allocated for solar panels (‘Solar Infrastructure’) by FGE. Digestate lagoon with storage capacity of 8378 cubic metres located close by adjacent to/access from Clay Lane. The South Hykeham digester also operates a similar operation at Thurlby (with similar storage lagoon and land use) (3) where FGE has designated land as ‘Other areas which may be required for landscaping and habitat creation’ (the latter is hardly compatible with intensive crop growing for digester). How will these activities continue – or will FGE be replacing one established carbon neutral electricity production system with another, the latter to the detriment of the aesthetics of the area, the appearance of the countryside and the effect on the quality of life of the local population choosing to enjoy their immediate countryside and visitors attracted to NKDC’s promoted ‘Stepping Out’ route within the NKDC’s promoted ‘Witham Valley Country Park’.(4) ?

(1) NKDC Planning Application Refs:20/0493/FUL + various
(2) NKDC Planning Application Refs: 13/1417 FUL, 15/1001/VARCON & 18/0740/FUL
(3) NKDC Planning Application Ref:18/0740/FUL
(4) ‘Stepping Out Route’ (3 pages) Public Information Leaflet published by NKDC **attached**

3. Fire hazard ref Battery storage: Is the amount of water required for firefighting to last 2 hours or 4 hours? (discrepancy at Examination 1 which, I believe, was established at 4 hours)? Whatever, how much water (cubic metres and/or gallons) will be required? Can local water authority (currently Anglian Water) have such capacity and pressure etc. to supply? Would storage reservoirs be necessary and be requested? If so where and how much area of land would be needed together with safety measures and where would they be sited?

4. FGE Representative (at Initial Hearing during evidence re batteries and fires) stated that in case of fire at a battery container 'there are measures in place to stop the spread of fire to adjacent containers and batteries'. No questioning as to what these measure/s were on this, not even from Lincolnshire Fire & Rescue Representative! What are these measures? How would they work? Are such measures tried and tested? From research, no such measures apart from large spaces in between containers) seem to be available – such separating measures will increase the area of land needed for battery storage.
5. Toxic contamination of ground, substrata and possibly water table as a result of water penetration when firefighting battery fires? How would FGE (and/or Lincs. F & R) propose to fight such fires and to mitigate such long term (permanent?) ground contamination?
6. The World Health Organisation recommends that Solar Farms should be 2 miles from residential properties. FGE scheme does not comply with this WHO recommendation in many locations, both village settlements (eg. Thorpe on the Hill village itself) and isolated dwellings.
7. Overall, the FGE scheme will very much adverse residents' and visitors' enjoyment and quality of life of the surrounding countryside and is thus at odds with many local, county and national published planning policies, together with TOTH Neighbourhood Plan (the latter upon which a great deal of time, energy, effort (much on a voluntary basis) and money was expended by this small village to accomplish).
8. In submitting the above for consideration, we request that opportunity and time is given for an open forum to be held in order that interested parties have an opportunity to ask questions and seek answers and information arising from the process of the formal investigations surrounding this Application.
9. Finally, we would like it borne in mind that this application by FGE is 1 such scheme within 15 other such schemes within close proximity of Lincoln, some which have already been approved with others awaiting examination. In our view, there are far too many such schemes within this area which is overkill and hardly fair to the residents. We therefore request that the FGE scheme is considered with this context to assess the impact of this plethora of such schemes in such a small area of the Country. Please note that this is not 'Nimbyism', it is about obtaining a fair, sensible and equitable overall plan which will benefit and enhance the country as a whole – an overall view that we feel has not been considered so far. Surely, such schemes should be spread throughout the country – and especially where the electricity is needed?

*Gordon & Sue Kobish
Residents of Thorpe on the Hill
16/01/2026*

NKDC Stepping Out Leaflet (3 pages).....

STEPPING OUT: THORPE ON THE HILL



Easy Terrain



3 Miles Circular 2 hour

200519



A 3 mile (4.5km) circular walk from the village of Thorpe on the Hill near Lincoln in Lincolnshire.

The walk performs a simple loop through woodland and open countryside with lots of hedgerow birds and lovely views back to the village. This walk is part of the Stepping Out network, published through a collaboration between with Kesteven District Council to inspire more people to enjoy the district's landscapes, ancient woodland, historic buildings and charming villages.

If you are looking for refreshments, the Railway Inn pub is located just north of the village or there is another pub in nearby Eagle. Nearby attractions include Doddington Hall and Gardens and Whisby Nature Park.

Getting there

Thorpe on the Hill is located about 6 miles south-west of Lincoln and just one mile north of the A46. The walk starts and finishes on the footpath that begins on Main Street.

Approximate post code LN6 9BG.

If you are coming by car, there is no village car park, so please find a safe roadside parking space, with respect for the local residents. Main Street is too narrow to park along, but there are usually some roadside spaces on Lincoln Lane. If you are coming by public transport, the village bus stops are located on Fosse Lane. For information on bus transport, call Traveline on 0871 2002233 or visit www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/busrailtravel.

Walk Sections

Go → 1 Start to Barn



Access Notes

1. The walk is fairly flat, with just a couple of gentle gradients.
2. It follows a mixture of farm tracks, grass paths and woodland paths, some of which can get muddy, so good boots are a must. There are no stiles on route, but you will need to negotiate two kissing gates.
3. The vast majority of the farmland is arable, but you will cross one small grass paddock at the start of the route. This was empty when we walked, and there was no sign it had been used for livestock recently, but it may be used again in the future. You are likely to come across gamebirds.
4. The route skirts Tunman Wood. Please note, between October and January there may be shooting activity in and around the wood. Please remember the Countryside Code. Some paths are provided by kind permission of the landowner, please only use the waymarked paths.
5. Where young stock may be present, please make sure your dog is under firm control in these areas.
6. OS Map Explorer 271.

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Thorpe on the Hill 1

The walk starts and finishes from the signed public footpath that begins on Main Street, between houses 13 and 13a. Follow this footpath between a fence and hedgerow, to reach a kissing gate into a grass paddock. Maintain your line to cross this small grass field and exit via the metal kissing gate at the far side. Turn left to join the stone farm track, signed as a public footpath, heading towards a large barn.

1 → 2 Barn to Housham Wood Farm



Just before you reach the barn, follow the track as it bends right to continue with a hedgerow on your left and a crop field on your right. The track becomes steadily more grass and less stone, before continuing as a grass path with a hedgerow on your right. Part way along this stretch, the path dog-legs right (through a hedge gap) and then left to continue with the hedgerow now on your left and a crop field on your right. Keep a sharp eye out for the numerous hedgerow birds to be found on this walk including finches, buntings and a variety of tits.

At the end of this first crop field on your right, you will see a small waymarker post on your left. If you wish to take a short-cut at this point, you can turn right here and follow the field edge as it bends right again to reach the end of Stocking Wood (from where you can pick up the main route).

For the full route, go straight ahead with the hedgerow on your left and a second crop field on your right. At the end of this second field, go ahead to cross a ditch and you will emerge into the corner of a meadow, with a lone property, called Housham Wood Farm, visible ahead.

2 → 3 Housham Wood Farm to Stocking Wood Exit



Turn right at this meadow corner, passing the end wooden pylon

on your right and then following the line of a hedgerow (also on your right). Stay along this field boundary grass path to reach the woodland at the far corner. Continue ahead on the obvious path, with the ditch and open field to your right and the woodland to your left.

The path swings right and then leads you to a path junction, with a fingerpost on your left and a belt of woodland running away to your right. Turn right to join the public footpath which runs through the centre of this woodland belt, known as Stocking Wood. As you emerge from the trees, you will reach a T-junction with a field-edge track, with a fingerpost on your left. It is at this point, that those following the short-cut will rejoin the main route.

3 → 4 Stocking Wood Exit to Green Lane



With your back to the exit of Stocking Wood, turn left to join the field-edge track, passing the end of the woodland on your left, with a crop field on your right. Across to your right you will have a good view of the village of Thorpe on the Hill, on top of the rise.

This corner of North Kesteven, once known as the Soke of Eagle, is geologically distinctive. Here, to the west of Lincoln, the curve of the Liassic clay vale is terraced with gravel deposits. Settlements were established on these terraces and so parish boundaries do not follow the classic grid-iron pattern.

After 500 metres, you will pass by a vehicle barrier to reach a T-junction with a stone and grass track (known as a green lane).

4 → 5 Green Lane to End



Turn right onto this green lane and follow the pleasant tree-lined lane bordered by hedgerows. After the first long straight stretch, the lane bears right and begins to climb gently towards the village. At the top of the rise, follow the track as it swings left,



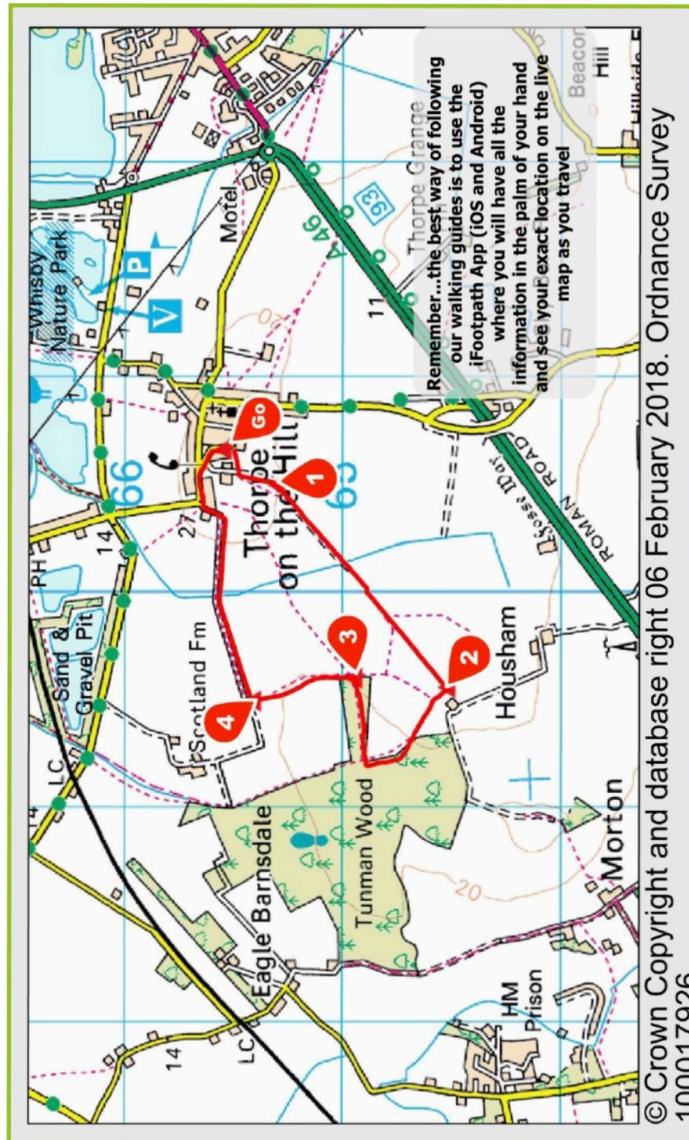
leading you through the yard of Home Farm and out to a junction with Station Road. Cross over to the far pavement with care and turn right along this. It will lead you back into the village of Thorpe on the Hill, soon passing the large brick meeting rooms on your right, at the junction with Main Street. This marks the end of your walk, from where you can head back to your car or to the village bus stops.

Disclaimer

This walking route was walked and checked at the time of writing. We have taken care to make sure all our walks are safe for walkers of a reasonable level of experience and fitness. However, like all outdoor activities, walking carries a degree of risk and we accept no responsibility for any loss or damage to personal effects, personal accident, injury or public liability whilst following this walk. We cannot be held responsible for any inaccuracies that result from changes to the routes that occur over time. Please let us know of any changes to the routes so that we can correct the information.

Walking Safety

For your safety and comfort we recommend that you take the following with you on your walk: bottled water, snacks, a waterproof jacket, waterproof/sturdy boots, a woolly hat and fleece (in winter and cold weather), a fully-charged mobile phone, a whistle, a compass and a map of the area. Check the weather forecast before you leave, carry appropriate clothing and do not set out in fog or mist as these conditions can seriously affect your ability to navigate the route. Take particular care on cliff/mountain paths where steep drops can present a particular hazard. Some routes include sections along roads – take care to avoid any traffic at these points. Around farmland take care with children and dogs, particularly around machinery and livestock. If you are walking on the coast make sure you check the tide times before you set out.



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