

Wellingore Parish Council wishes to register its firm opposition to the Fosse Green Solar application. Having reviewed the application documents, associated maps, and the impacts outlined during the early inquiry stages, we believe the proposal would have significant and irreversible detrimental effects on Wellingore, neighbouring cliff villages, and the wider environment.

Our objections focus on the following key areas:

1. Scale and Industrialisation of the Countryside

The proposal covers approximately 2,600 acres of solar infrastructure, plus 867 acres for cabling installation, with over 1,300 lithium battery containers positioned within the wider site. This creates an industrial-scale development wholly inappropriate for a rural landscape.

The setting of the cliff villages, including Wellingore, is defined by open, historic, agricultural countryside. The applicant's own line-of-sight mapping indicates that the visual setting of the cliff edge will be heavily affected, fundamentally altering the character of the area for at least 60 years.

Replacing open countryside with large scale solar fields will permanently erode the rural context in which these historic villages sit. Wellingore Parish Council considers this level of landscape change completely unacceptable.

2. Visual Impact on Wellingore and Surrounding Villages

Wellingore's elevated position on the Lincoln Edge means the village looks out across the very landscape identified for solar development. The transformation from open farmland to "solarland"—as identified by local representatives—would have a profound negative effect on:

- heritage views
- residential amenity
- the conservation setting of cliff villages
- the tourism and recreational value of the landscape

The proposed 1km "study area" adopted by the applicant does not accurately reflect the real extent of visibility, given the prominence of the cliff and the open vistas that define the villages' character.

3. Construction and Decommissioning Impacts

The project proposes:

- 2.5 years of construction
- 2 years of decommissioning
- regular replacement cycles for panels, cabling, and battery infrastructure

During these prolonged phases, Wellingore and neighbouring villages will experience:

- significant HGV traffic
- noise and dust
- disruption on rural roads not designed for large engineering works
- potential road safety risks for residents, schools, and pedestrians

This level of disruption is disproportionate and would negatively affect community wellbeing for many years.

4. Battery Safety and Proximity Concerns

The application includes more than 1,300 lithium battery shipping containers. Lithium battery installations of this scale present well-documented fire and explosion risks, and require major emergency planning resources.

Wellingore Parish Council has previously been involved in assessing similar risks for other proposed storage sites in the area, and remains deeply concerned that insufficient consideration has been given to:

- fire mitigation
- rural emergency service response capacity
- water contamination risks
- long term management of hazardous technology

The location of such significant hazardous infrastructure within a rural setting is inappropriate and potentially dangerous.

5. Lack of Demonstrable Need

According to the Government's National Energy System Operator (NESO) "Connection Reform Results" (January 2026), large-scale battery sites are already over three times oversupplied, and the urgent national need for further solar deployment has reduced significantly.

If the strategic benefit is minimal, the justification for imposing major local harm is fundamentally weakened. Wellingore Parish Council believes the proposed development fails the planning balance test.

6. Alternative Options Have Not Been Properly Explored

Thousands of acres of commercial and industrial rooftops remain unused for solar generation nationwide. Prioritising high quality agricultural land and sensitive landscapes before exhausting rooftop and brownfield options contradicts the principles of sustainable site selection.

The applicant has not adequately demonstrated why lower impact alternatives have been dismissed.

7. Cumulative Impact with Other Nationally Significant Energy Projects

This application follows closely after the Springwell Inquiry and forms part of a series of extremely large energy schemes across the district. When combined, these projects exceed the size of the City of Lincoln itself.

For local communities, the cumulative effect is overwhelming and unsustainable. Each approval sets precedent for further erosion of countryside, progressively industrialising the area. Wellingore Parish Council urges the Inspector to consider cumulative harm as a critical factor in this examination.

Conclusion

Wellingore Parish Council strongly objects to the Fosse Green Solar project. The proposal causes major adverse impacts on landscape character, visual amenity, village wellbeing, road safety, and environmental quality, while offering diminishing national benefit and ignoring more sustainable alternatives.