

## **Written Submission – Thorpe on the Hill - Fosse Green Energy (FGE) Deadline 1.**

### **Interested Party Reference F7FB25903)**

#### **Introduction**

**I am writing to you as a resident of Thorpe on the Hill to oppose this scheme due to the detrimental and permanent impact the proposed plans will have on the village historic character.**

22 years ago, I returned to Lincolnshire with my family and chose to reside at Thorpe on the Hill for many reasons however one of the main attractions was due to the easy access to the open countryside. Thorpe has good connection to a labyrinth of public footpaths and trails available to the south and west of the village enabling my family to enjoy the wonderful country scenery throughout the changing seasons. The most significant of these being the Thorpe Circular walk which can be accessed via clay lane at one end and via a foot path starting from Main Street at the other.

As Thorpe sits on a on a hill the views looking back at the village throughout the circular are spectacular, especially while navigating the perimeter of the wood and paths at the furthest points.

The wildlife is also an attraction with Sky larks, Buzzards, Lapwings, Kestrels and Sparrow hawks often observed. Canadian geese also use the land to gather in their hundreds before migrating south. There is also evidence of badger Tracks and while not always welcome by all landowners, Deer too can often be seen in the early morning or evening.

With the current plans I see all this being lost as 60% or more of the circular will become an enclosed footpath with the proposed high perimeter hedges and fencing.

The screening hedges designed to obscure the solar panels, will also obscure the view and create a dark, enclosed experience, especially in the winter months.

In December 2024 I did write to the Fosse Green Energy and suggested they reviewed their plans to mitigate some of the visual impacts on the internal fields of the TOTH circular walk.

This could be achieved by relocating four or five of the fields current designated for solar panels to non-residential areas south of Swinderby roundabout along the A46. These could be screened from the road and would not impact the PRoW, however it seems more solar panel fields have been added to the vicinity.

Furthermore, as these fields are North, North-East of the wooded area, the winter months will see varying amounts of shade from the 80 to 90ft trees, thus reducing the solar efficiency considerably.

#### **Noncompliance and deficiencies in the design**

##### **Current LVIA & LIR and EN-3 compliance**

Both the LVIA complete by AAH associates on behalf of FGE and the LIR completed by the NKDC highlight significant deficiencies in the FGE plans with regards to PRoW.

The NKDC LIR identified deficiencies are listed within section **17- Rights of Way and Permissive Paths**, all of which are non-compliances with either EN-1 or EN-3.

Particularly attention should be given to sections 17.5 17.11, and 17.13 to 17.22 inclusive.

It is obvious from reviewing the FGE plans, including the LVIA and NKDC LIR that the environmental impacts have not been thorough enough in the consideration and require significant amendment to achieve compliance. Furthermore, I see little evidence of local resident collaboration which is a major requirement of EN-3.

## **Areas of non- compliance identified. Ref to NPS EN-3: December 2025 Edition**

### **Section 2 General Assessment and Technology Specific Information**

#### **2.1 Introduction**

2.1.8 The assessment principles outlined in Section 4 of EN-1 continue to apply to CNP (critical National Infrastructure). Applicants must show how any likely significant negative effects would be avoided, reduced, mitigated or compensated for, following the mitigation hierarchy. Early application of the mitigation hierarchy is strongly encouraged, **as is engagement with key stakeholders including SNCBs**, both before and at the formal pre-application stage.

Residents, businesses and visitors should be classed as “key stakeholders”, however I see little evidence of any consideration with regard to the issues being raised. Only minor changes have occurred to date. This is possibly due to the limited land available to purchase. I suspect FGE are just going through due process so they can tick the compliance boxes without fundamentally changing anything of significance.

**2.5.2** Proposals for renewable energy infrastructure should demonstrate good design, particularly in respect of landscape and visual amenity, opportunities for co-existence/co-location with other marine and terrestrial uses, and in the design of the project to mitigate impacts such as noise and effects on ecology and heritage. **This has not been complied with due to the severe impact on local historical villages and their communities**

#### **2.10 Solar Photovoltaic Generation**

##### **Public rights of ways**

**2.10.34** Applicants are encouraged to design the layout and appearance of the site **to ensure continued recreational use** of public rights of way where possible during construction, **and in particular, during operation of the site.** **This has not been considered and therefore is a major non-compliance.**

**2.10.35** Applicants are encouraged where possible to **minimise the visual impacts of the development** for those **using existing public rights of way**, considering the impacts this may have on any other **visual amenities in the surrounding landscape.** **94, This has only been considered with a view to screening the solar panels rather than considering the historical visual impact on the village recreational amenity “public rights of way” circular footpath.**

*94 For example, screening along public right-of-way networks to minimise the outlook into the Solar Park may, **impact on the ability of users to appreciate the surrounding landscapes.***

**2.10.89** Applicants should carry out a landscape and visual assessment (LVIA) and report it in the ES. Photomontage visualisations may be required to demonstrate the effects of a proposed solar farm, on sensitive or valued landscapes, particularly designated landscapes, the setting of heritage assets and any nearby residential areas or viewpoints. **LVIA Currently completed with major deficiencies identified.**

**2.10.90** Applicants should follow the criteria for good design set out in Section 4.7 of EN-1 when developing projects and will be expected to direct **considerable effort towards minimising the landscape and visual impact of solar PV** arrays especially within nationally designated landscapes. **This is not the case with the current proposal and therefore non-compliant.**

**2.10.100** Above ground impacts may include the effects on the setting of Listed Buildings and other designated heritage assets as well as **on Historic Landscape Character**. **The Historic character of TOTH and PRow will be impacted and therefore the plans are non-compliant.**

### **Summary**

Having reviewed that FGE plans I consider that there will be major negative impacts on Thorpe on the Hill PRow and the visual amenities in the surrounding landscape arising from the development. I also believe that the historical landscape and visual impacts due to the industrial scale of the FGE plans will be permanent and detrimental to the village quality of life.

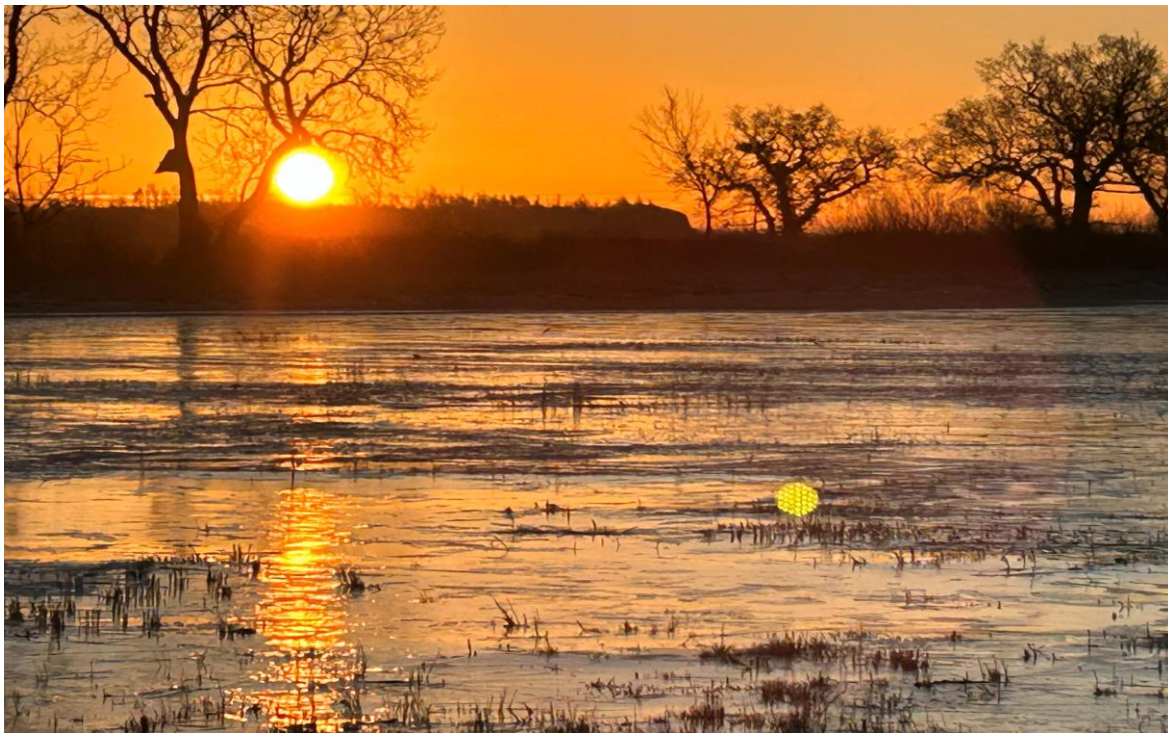
Currently one of the biggest ever planning decisions to impact several local historical villages including Thorpe on the Hill, Thurlby, Bassingham, Aubourn, Haddington Witham St Hugh, appears to be being pushed through despite the major impacts identified by individual residents, the LIR and LVIA. I see this as a failure of the process to ensure full compliance with EN-3 and or involve local stakeholder collaboration in the planning process.

The inflexibility of the design and the reluctance to take cognisance of local concerns when issues are raised suggests that this is possibly a consequence of the limited available land for sale, and the overall NSIP process, which by removing the decision making away from local to central government, creates detachment from the local needs. I also feel FGE just need to prove that they have followed due process, and their plans will be rubber stamped, as it is currently the will of the current central government to do so, albeit without true local collaboration as required by the planning process. I sincerely hope this will not be the case and some major changes are made to consider and fully mitigate the issues raised.

■■■■■ – Resident TOTH 19/01/2026

# Views on the historical circular walk that will be lost

En-Route to the wood TOTH circular



En-Route to the wood TOTH circular





**En-Route to the wood, TOTH circular**



**Perimeter of Tunman wood – TOTH circular**





**Perimeter of Tunman wood – TOTH circular**



**Perimeter of Tunman wood – TOTH circular**





**Prior To entering Tunman wood- TOTH circular**



**Entering Tunman wood – TOTH circular**





**Perimeter of Tunman wood – TOTH circular**



**View from Tunman wood perimeter– TOTH circular**





**View from the perimeter of Tunman wood**



**Exiting the wood enroute back to TOTH**



**Exiting Tunman wood – View looking at TOTH – TOTH Circular**





**The likely views we will be gaining**

