

I object to the Fosse Green Energy proposal. While national policy supports renewable energy, it also requires that such development is appropriately sited, avoids unacceptable harm, and properly addresses cumulative impacts. In this case, the proposal fails to do so.

1. Cumulative Impact – Landscape and Rural Character

The proposal does not adequately assess or mitigate cumulative impacts, particularly when considered alongside Springwell and other solar, BESS and grid infrastructure projects in North Kesteven.

This conflicts with:

North Kesteven Local Plan Policy LP2 (Spatial Strategy)

Policy LP13 (Landscape Character)

The concentration of multiple NSIPs within the same rural area would result in the effective industrialisation of open countryside, causing significant cumulative harm to landscape character, tranquillity and visual amenity.

While EN-1 supports renewable energy, it is clear that consent should be refused where cumulative impacts are unacceptable and cannot be effectively mitigated. In this case, the cumulative harm is long-term and substantial.

2. Transport and Construction Impacts

Lincolnshire County Council, as Highway Authority, must consider cumulative construction impacts.

The proposal conflicts with:

Local Plan Policy LP25 (Transport and Accessibility)

Overlapping construction periods across several NSIPs would generate prolonged HGV movements on rural roads, adversely affecting safety, accessibility and local amenity. These cumulative impacts have not been convincingly addressed.

3. Loss of Agricultural Land

The scheme would result in the loss of productive agricultural land, conflicting with:

Local Plan Policies LP2 and LP13, which seek to protect the rural economy and countryside

The cumulative loss of farmland across multiple energy schemes represents a strategic harm. The NPPF recognises the importance of protecting agricultural land, and EN-1 requires careful consideration of land use impacts, particularly where alternatives have not been fully explored.

4. Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) – Safety and Cumulative Risk

The proposed BESS raises serious safety concerns, particularly when considered cumulatively with other nearby battery storage facilities, including Springwell.

Lithium-ion BESS installations pose known risks, including thermal runaway, long-duration fires and toxic emissions. EN-1 requires that risks to public safety are fully assessed and demonstrably acceptable.

Lincolnshire County Council's responsibilities for emergency planning and public safety require clear evidence that:

credible worst-case scenarios have been assessed

emergency response arrangements are deliverable

cumulative BESS risk has been fully considered

This assurance has not been provided.

5. Conclusion

Although renewable energy is supported in principle by EN-1 and EN-3, these policies do not override the requirement to avoid unacceptable cumulative harm.

The Fosse Green Energy proposal:

causes unacceptable cumulative landscape and infrastructure impacts

results in significant loss of agricultural land

raises unresolved BESS safety concerns

When assessed in its full cumulative and policy context, the proposal fails to represent sustainable development and should not be granted development consent.