

Fosse Green: Additional comments from Cllr Marianne Overton MBE arising from the County Council Impact Reports Introduction

The Cliff Villages Solar Action Group paper includes our major points, but we did also respond to the County Council and District Council Local Impact Reports and share those points here.

Minimal and Insecure Benefit

1.1 In planning we have to weigh the impacts against the benefits. The benefit of renewable energy has significantly reduced as we have reached the Government's 2035 estimate of need for renewable energy. There is no point in overproviding and then creating quickly outdated white elephants which we have to pay for.

1.2 The National Energy Security Operator (NESO) has just published new figures illustrating that the UK is 3x oversupplied with batteries and just on target for Solar for 2035. If all the roofs were counted, we would be oversupplied already, as indicated by the tumbling feed-in tariffs.

1.3 Battery Safety. The UK Health Security Agency have written in response to the Navenby BESS stating that the plans would add "significant risk" for residents.

1.4 NESO has declared a moratorium on any new large scale battery installations. They must surely prioritise developments that already have a grid connection, rather than creating a whole new 35 acre substation on a green field site, plus vast lengths of expensive 400kV cable for miles across the countryside. The applicants say they have a date for connection for the solar, but not the batteries, not in writing and not evident on the NESO website.

2 Traffic and Transport

2.1 Even with mitigations, the impact of additional development traffic, cars, buses and HGV's would be significantly negative on these rural roads. The County Council Local Impact Report notes "no positive effects" in Section 11 on traffic and "adverse effects" in paragraph 11.12. As only adverse impacts have been identified, the transport impact must be termed negative irrespective of the severity.

2.2 There are a dozen applications for solar developments on the NESO website and the assumption is that none of these developments will coincide. (Para 11.19) This would need to be conditioned to avoid the cumulative impact.

2.3 It can be demonstrated that the applicant's assumptions are not robust. For example, the Fosse Green construction phase is anticipated to be 2031- 33 (based upon a connection offer of 30 May 2033 to the proposed Navenby substation with construction being completed in late 2029). However, as is noted in paragraph 8.7 (page 249), the applicant intends to negotiate for an advancement in the connection queue and, again as noted in 8.7, there is a risk that the Navenby Substation construction will not be completed in 2029. Either or both of these events would result in an overlap of construction period. Other assumptions are equally flawed, invalidating the assessment that construction would not result in any significant issues at key junctions.

3) Public Health – This is fast moving, with new information coming forward. The County Council's Director of Public Health is preparing a report on the most recent research on the health impacts of solar farms which we will submit during the examination.

(██████████ emailed Councillor Overton on 2nd January 2026 advising a report is in preparation.)

4) Securing responsible funding for decommissioning

4.1 - The applicant may dispose of the company and facility to another party that may not have the resources for decommissioning. This is especially true after a catastrophic event onsite, a long outage or at the end of the project's life. This renders legal remedies ineffective. The Council therefore requests a mechanism to mitigate this risk - for example, a decommissioning bond or a requirement that, should the applicant dispose of the facility, an appropriate share of decommissioning costs should be transferred into an escrow account."

4.2 Although there are legal powers to enforce reinstatement of land by landowners and operators, these could be ineffective if the applicant has transferred the project to an entity that has insufficient funds to finance the restoration. As with recent cases concerning owners of land containing hazardous waste, the result would be that the burden of making the site safe would have to be met from the public purse.

5. Impact on the Visitor Economy: Socio-Economics

5.1 Paras 16.12 and 16.13 The Council raises concerns about the potential negative impact of the Fosse Green Energy proposal on the visitor economy. 16.12 finishes with a sentence stating that the villages on the Lincoln Cliff Edge overlook the application site. Significant examples of visitor economy businesses that will be directly impacted by the Fosse Green Energy scheme in the lowfields are the Cathedral View Holiday Park, which will be surrounded on three sides by solar panels, Thorpe Park Holiday Lodges at Thorpe-on-the-Hill, and the Oakhill Leisure touring caravan and camping site at Norton Disney. Chapter 12 of the Fosse Green Energy Environmental Statement fails to consider impacts on these non-serviced accommodation businesses.

5.2 The pubs in Bassingham, Aubourn and Norton Disney are also likely to lose trade from visiting walkers and walking groups. The new Bomber County Gateway Lancaster aircraft landmark art installation also needs to be noted as an attraction that can provide an additional boost to the visitor economy of the local area.

5.3 The visitor economy is the second largest industry in Lincolnshire. In 2024, the Greater Lincolnshire visitor economy was worth £3.02bn and employed 28.700 people . Over 32 million people visited the county in 2024. Recent years, apart from the interruption of the COVID 19 pandemic, have seen steady growth in the county's visitor economy, and there is thought to be significant potential for future growth as the county's visitor attractions and accommodation offer continues to develop. Visitors come to Lincolnshire for its rurality and unspoilt countryside, open landscape, heritage attractions and RAF heritage.

5.4 Our communities object on the basis of the impact on the area's visitor economy and its potential for future growth that will be result from the visual degradation and industrialisation of the countryside that will be caused by the Fosse Green Energy project, both directly and cumulatively, in combination with all the other renewable energy infrastructure projects in the area.

6 Site Selection

The applicant's site selection is based on a landowner(s) request, as explained by the applicant. The choice of sites on such a narrow area, 10-15km from a rather arbitrarily placed substation shows insufficient evidence of an appropriate site selection as in EN3.

7. Battery Storage

The full number of shipping container sized battery units was clarified in the January Public Inquiry as over 1,300. The Cliff Villages responded to the Navenby Battery units and the same concerns apply here, outlined in the full report from the Cliff Villages Action Group