

FOSSE GREEN ENERGY EXAMINATION

COMMENTS ON THE APPLICANT'S DRAFT ITINERARY FOR THE ASI

ANDREW KEELING (IP Ref: [REDACTED])

I am a resident of Bassingham and wish to make the following comments on the applicant's draft itinerary for the ASI and suggestions for additional locations for the ExA to view during the ASI.

1. The Applicant's Draft Itinerary for the ASI

Location 8 – Clay Lane

I would ask the ExA to consider the suitability of Clay Lane for HGV traffic. The lane is very narrow and has very few passing places. It is also heavily potholed. HGV traffic will almost certainly result in a further deterioration of the surface of the lane.

The applicant is keen to show the ExA the site of its proposed circular permissive path route located within the proposed bird mitigation area, which they are claiming as a benefit of the Fosse Green Energy project. I would ask the ExA to consider how appealing this proposal will be for recreational purposes. It will be on a flat, featureless piece of land, with views of solar panel arrays to the north, and more distant views of solar panels to the west. I can't see it having much appeal as a recreational facility for Bassingham residents. The village already has a good local recreational facility at Holmes Parish Woodland and the footpath to the east of Clay Lane, which is used for circular walks around the village. As far as I am aware the applicant has not undertaken any consultations to establish whether Bassingham residents would welcome and use the proposed permissive path route, so do not believe that they can legitimately claim it as a benefit. It is only a benefit if there is evidence that local people will use it.

2. Suggested Additional Locations for the ExA to View

I would like to suggest three additional locations that I think the ExA should look at during the ASI:

Church Bridge, Bassingham

Looking west from Church Bridge, the ExA will be able to clearly see the visual impact of the solar panel arrays to the east of Clay Lane on Bassingham and the footpath that runs across field immediately to the west of the village. This forms part of a popular circular route around Bassingham that local people enjoy. It will be clearly impacted by the solar panel arrays that will run alongside the footpath. I believe that the views from Church Bridge give a prime example of poor design in the Fosse Green Energy scheme. Coming so close to Bassingham and running alongside the footpath, the solar panel arrays proposed for this location will result in unnecessary visual harm to the village and users of the footpath, which could have been avoided with a more thoughtful design solution. The applicant makes no real attempt to avoid these harmful impacts and does not attempt in any way to enhance recreational activity in this location. Diverting the footpath to run along the River Witham would have been an obvious option to enhance recreation here and lessen the impact of the solar panels on the footpath, but the applicant does not appear to have considered this in the design of the scheme in this location.

The Site of the Substation at Aubourn Moor

This is another location where poor design is evident. The substation site is immediately adjacent to the footpath that forms part of the promoted Aubourn & Basingham Long Walk. This is a popular circular walk between the two villages. The footpath running immediately south from the substation site will have solar panel arrays either side of it, and alongside it further south. The design of the Fosse Green Energy Scheme in this location makes no real attempt to mitigate the impacts of the substation and the solar panel arrays on the footpath and recreational receptor of the Aubourn & Basingham Long Walk, and no attempt to enhance the recreational experience for users of the footpath here.

The Drive from Thurlby to Thorpe-on-the-Hill via Haddington Land and Fosse Lane

Solar panel arrays will be visible from the left-hand side of the road for most of the drive north from Thurlby to Thorpe-on-the-Hill, especially from the elevated sections of Haddington Lane and Fosse Lane as the road crosses the A46.