

Notes from OFH1 Oral Submission

Fosse Green Energy (FGE) – Deadline 3

3.1 Scale & Duration

I am greatly concerned about the 60-year duration of the application which seems to be an outlier. Does a compelling case really exist for a 60-year duration when technology development curves suggest that these products will be succeeded by superior solutions in less than 30 years?

The Applicant relies on the project being temporary and reversible. In planning terms, I would suggest that a 60-year land use change cannot be regarded as temporary in its impact on local communities.

For most residents the development would exist for the equivalent of their entire adult lifetime.

If decommissioning occurs at 60 years, is there any guarantee that a further application would not be pursued to extend consent?

3.2 Landscape & Visual Effects

I have raised the importance of walking routes previously and simply want to reiterate that alongside their recreational value they help to characterise the village because of its specific location relative to the surrounding fields and woods which establish the context for the village it is indivisible from its wider location. No amount of screening, or other mitigation steps will redress the loss; a once appealing attractive rural landscape will be industrialised and the factors which draw people to landscape will be lost for at least 60 years

The Landscape & Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) acknowledges that moderate and in some case significant residual effects during operation. Does the applicant accept that these effects persist for the full 60-year operational period?

How has the applicant accounted for the strategic cumulative transition from predominantly agricultural landscape to clustered energy infrastructure across this part of Lincolnshire?

Why does the cumulative assessment treat schemes discreetly rather than evaluating the structural transformation of landscape character?

If multiple solar NSIPs are consented in this region would the Applicant accept that national and local landscape character descriptions would require revision?

Is the assumption that mitigation planting will perform effectively for 60 years and if so, is this supported by secured funding and enforceable long-term monitoring mechanisms including performance measures?

3.3 Population Effects

3.3b Construction Hours

We wish to strongly object to the proposed working hours which are portrayed by the applicant as broadly beneficial to local communities. In fact, the extended working hours are simply a way for the applicant to minimise their costs and maximise profits. Again, no attempt has been made to consult local communities on these especially sensitive matters.

The major concern relates to unenforceability of a token commitment to prohibit noisy working to during the first and last hours of the day. The applicant states that it would be legally enforceable, but in practice, rather like trying to enforce the weight limit through the village, by the time complaints have been received and processed the ability to take action will be lost. Overstretched enforcing authorities will claim they have more pressing priorities. Minor infringements are likely to become a matter of course as the drive to achieve production targets, or avoid penalties, becomes the overriding consideration. Local Cllrs are likely to bear the brunt of residents' anger and frustration, in much the same way as traffic and speeding infuriate people in the village.


This proposal to work extended hours does not stand the test of reasonableness and is bound to create a disproportionately adverse reaction from communities that will already feel this scheme is being imposed upon them against their wishes.

3.3d Visitor Economy

We believe that the importance of the visitor economy has been understated. The importance of this sector is recognised in Thorpe on the Hill's Neighbourhood Plan.

Within our parish boundary there are several caravan sites as well as the lodges at the golf course and at Cathedral view in addition there are a significant number of visitors who are initially attracted to Whisby Nature Park, Golf Centre, or the Water Park and then wish to stay in the area. The village location with its close proximity to Lincoln is also a major attraction for tourists to this area.

It is inevitable that if this scheme is consented there will be an overall adverse impact on the visitor economy and a diminution in the appeal of the locality to visitors which will in turn affect the local economy of the hospitality sector which is currently under extreme pressure.


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