

## Initial notes for Representation at Open Floor Hearing 1 on 11/3/26.

Interested Parties Ref Nos. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] (Gordon & Sue Kobish)

Fosse Green Energy - Solar Panels Scheme - (EN010154/APP/7.2)

*Please note that these were amended for the Hearing to avoid repetition of matters covered during the day, as requested*

1. A few general observations as a resident of Thorpe on the Hill (TOTH) :
2. How can this scheme be classed as 'temporary' when it is designed to be in place for 60 years? Hardly 'temporary'?! Apparently, the infrastructure in the ground below 0.9 metres will not be removed at the end. This, surely, means that the scheme is a permanent feature and cannot in any way be classed as 'temporary'? And can that land ever be cultivated again?
3. So far as I can see, there is a conflict of land use around Clay Lane (TOTH) and Stocking Wood area. Much of that land is designated for solar panels by FGE. It is however already used for intensive crop growing (239 acres/ 93 hectares) supplying a Digester producing electricity (1). This facility at South Hykeham is of enough 'Significant Importance' as to warrant avoidance of it by the re-alignment of the route of Lincoln's Eastern Bypass (2). On Clay Lane there is also an associated digestate lagoon with a storage capacity of 8378 cubic metres.
4. This South Hykeham digester also operates a similar operation at Thurlby with a similar storage lagoon and land use (3) where FGE has designated land for 'landscaping and habitat creation'. This is hardly compatible with intensive crop growing for the South Hykeham digester. How will the digester continue? – or will FGE's scheme simply replace one carbon neutral electricity production system with another?
5. Is the amount of water required for Battery firefighting to last 2 hours or 4 hours? There was a discrepancy about this at Hearing1 in January. Whatever, can I please ask how much water would be required? Can the water company concerned be confident of having enough capacity and pressure? Would storage reservoirs be necessary? If so where and how much area of land would be needed together with safety measures and where would they be sited?
6. FGE have stated (Hearing 1 in January) that in the case of fire at a battery container '*there are measures in place to stop the spread of fire to adjacent containers and batteries*'. However, there was no information given as to what these measures were! So, what are these measures please? How would they work? So far as I can see, there appears to be nothing apart from having larger spaces between the containers – thus increasing the overall area of land. And what about toxic contamination of the ground and possibly the water table? What proposals will exist to mitigate long term or even permanent ground contamination?
7. The World Health Organisation recommends that Solar schemes should be 2 miles from residential properties. The FGE scheme does not appear to comply with this – certainly not so far as Thorpe on the Hill is concerned.
8. I could go on! What about the effect of this scheme on property values, for example?
9. Overall, this scheme will very much affect residents' and users' enjoyment and quality of life of the surrounding countryside. It is thus at odds with many published planning policies.
10. It is my view that this scheme will be detrimental to the landscape which has some significant features which belie the often held general view that Lincolnshire is flat and consequently of no significance. After all, Lincoln Edge is, geographically, the northern end of the Cotswolds and the scenery around Thorpe on the Hill has some welcome topographical features, as the name implies. As such there will be a significant impact on the quality of life of the local population choosing to enjoy their immediate area, not to mention the visitors attracted to NKDC's promoted 'Stepping Out' route within that Councils' promoted 'Witham Valley Country Park'.(4) .
11. Do not forget that the A46, lined by solar panels, is also one of the main access routes from the west into Lincoln and Lincolnshire – what a welcome!

12. Finally, I would like it borne in mind that this application is 1 of around 15 such schemes (I really have lost count!) within close proximity of Lincoln. This is surely 'overkill' and hardly fair to the residents concerned. I therefore request that this scheme is considered within this overall context to assess the impact of the plethora of such schemes in such a small area of the Country.

- (1) **NKDC Planning Application Refs:20/0493/FUL + various**
- (2) **NKDC Planning Application Refs: 13/1417 FUL, 15/1001/VARCON & 18/0740/FUL**
- (3) **NKDC Planning Application Ref:18/0740/FUL**
- (4) **'Stepping Out Route' (3 pages) Public Information Leaflet published by NKDC (attached)**

**STEPPING OUT:  
THORPE ON THE HILL**



**Easy Terrain**




**3 Miles  
Circular  
2 hour**

200519



**Access Notes**



1. The walk is fairly flat, with just a couple of gentle gradients.
2. It follows a mixture of farm tracks, grass paths and woodland paths, some of which can get muddy, so good boots are a must. There are no stiles on route, but you will need to negotiate two kissing gates.
3. The vast majority of the farmland is arable, but you will cross one small grass paddock at the start of the route. This was empty when we walked, and there was no sign it had been used for livestock recently, but it may be used again in the future. You are likely to come across gamebirds.
4. The route skirts Tunman Wood. Please note, between October and January there may be shooting activity in and around the wood. Please remember the Countryside Code. Some paths are provided by kind permission of the landowner, please only use the waymarked paths.
5. Where young stock may be present, please make sure your dog is under firm control in these areas.
6. OS Map Explorer 271.

**A 3 mile (4.5km) circular walk from the village of Thorpe on the Hill near Lincoln in Lincolnshire.**

The walk performs a simple loop through woodland and open countryside with lots of hedgerow birds and lovely views back to the village. This walk is part of the Stepping Out network, published through a collaboration between with Kesteven District Council to inspire more people to enjoy the district's landscapes, ancient woodland, historic buildings and charming villages.

If you are looking for refreshments, the Railway Inn pub is located just north of the village or there is another pub in nearby Eagle. Nearby attractions include Doddington Hall and Gardens and Whisby Nature Park.

**Getting there**

Thorpe on the Hill is located about 6 miles south-west of Lincoln and just one mile north of the A46. The walk starts and finishes on the footpath that begins on Main Street.

Approximate post code LN6 9BG.

If you are coming by car, there is no village car park, so please find a safe roadside parking space, with respect for the local residents. Main Street is too narrow to park along, but there are usually some roadside spaces on Lincoln Lane. If you are coming by public transport, the village bus stops are located on Fosse Lane. For information on bus transport, call Traveline on 0871 2002233 or visit [www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/busrailtravel](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/busrailtravel).

**Walk Sections**

**Go → 1 Start to Barn**



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[alltrails.com](http://alltrails.com)



The walk starts and finishes from the signed public footpath that begins on Main Street, between houses 13 and 13a. Follow this footpath between a fence and hedgerow, to reach a kissing gate into a grass paddock. Maintain your line to cross this small grass field and exit via the metal kissing gate at the far side. Turn left to join the stone farm track, signed as a public footpath, heading towards a large barn.

## 1 → 2 Barn to Housham Wood Farm



Just before you reach the barn, follow the track as it bends right to continue with a hedgerow on your left and a crop field on your right. The track becomes steadily more grass and less stone, before continuing as a grass path with a hedgerow on your right. Part way along this stretch, the path dog-legs right (through a hedge gap) and then left to continue with the hedgerow now on your left and a crop field on your right. Keep a sharp eye out for the numerous hedgerow birds to be found on this walk including finches, buntings and a variety of tits.

At the end of this first crop field on your right, you will see a small waymarker post on your left. If you wish to take a short-cut at this point, you can turn right here and follow the field edge as it bends right again to reach the end of Stocking Wood (from where you can pick up the main route).

For the full route, go straight ahead with the hedgerow on your left and a second crop field on your right. At the end of this second field, go ahead to cross a ditch and you will emerge into the corner of a meadow, with a lone property, called Housham Wood Farm, visible ahead.

## 2 → 3 Housham Wood Farm to Stocking Wood Exit



Turn right at this meadow corner, passing the end wooden pylon

on your right and then following the line of a hedgerow (also on your right). Stay along this field boundary grass path to reach the woodland at the far corner. Continue ahead on the obvious path, with the ditch and open field to your right and the woodland to your left.

The path swings right and then leads you to a path junction, with a fingerpost on your left and a belt of woodland running away to your right. Turn right to join the public footpath which runs through the centre of this woodland belt, known as Stocking Wood. As you emerge from the trees, you will reach a T-junction with a field-edge track, with a fingerpost on your left. It is at this point, that those following the short-cut will rejoin the main route.

## 3 → 4 Stocking Wood Exit to Green Lane



With your back to the exit of Stocking Wood, turn left to join the field-edge track, passing the end of the woodland on your left, with a crop field on your right. Across to your right you will have a good view of the village of Thorpe on the Hill, on top of the rise.

This corner of North Kesteven, once known as the Soke of Eagle, is geologically distinctive. Here, to the west of Lincoln, the curve of the Liassic clay vale is terraced with gravel deposits. Settlements were established on these terraces and so parish boundaries do not follow the classic grid-iron pattern.

After 500 metres, you will pass by a vehicle barrier to reach a T-junction with a stone and grass track (known as a green lane).

## 4 → 5 Green Lane to End



Turn right onto this green lane and follow the pleasant tree-lined lane bordered by hedgerows. After the first long straight stretch, the lane bears right and begins to climb gently towards the village. At the top of the rise, follow the track as it swings left,



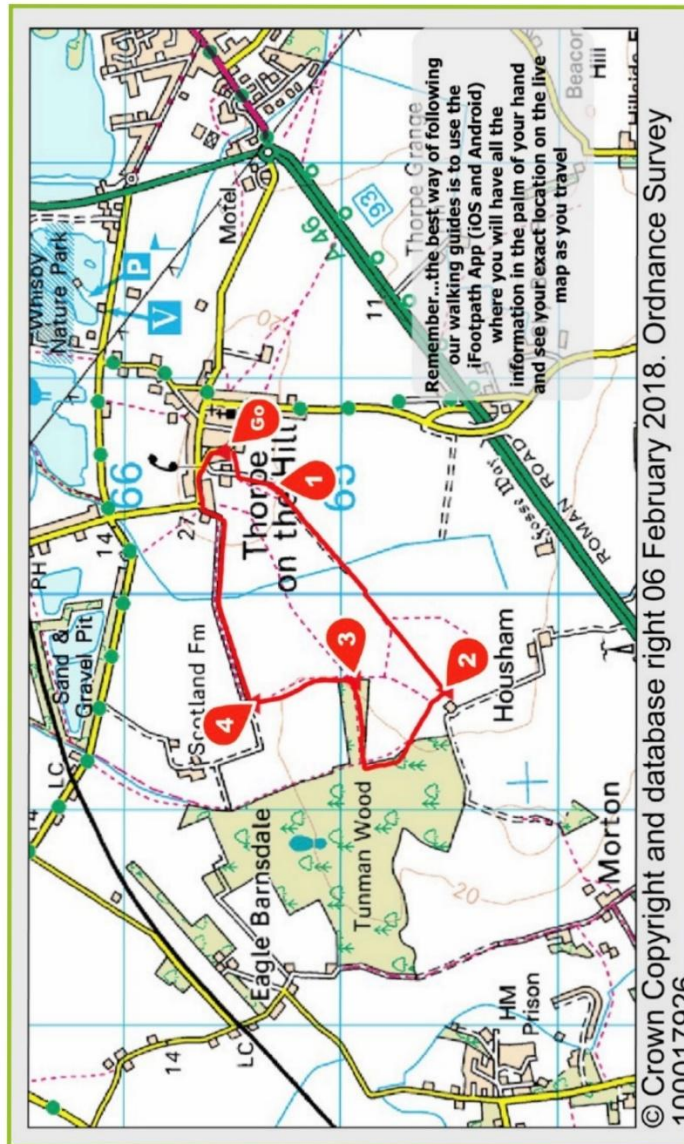
leading you through the yard of Home Farm and out to a junction with Station Road. Cross over to the far pavement with care and turn right along this. It will lead you back into the village of Thorpe on the Hill, soon passing the large brick meeting rooms on your right, at the junction with Main Street. This marks the end of your walk, from where you can head back to your car or to the village bus stops.

**Disclaimer**

This walking route was walked and checked at the time of writing. We have taken care to make sure all our walks are safe for walkers of a reasonable level of experience and fitness. However, like all outdoor activities, walking carries a degree of risk and we accept no responsibility for any loss or damage to personal effects, personal accident, injury or public liability whilst following this walk. We cannot be held responsible for any inaccuracies that result from changes to the routes that occur over time. Please let us know of any changes to the routes so that we can correct the information.

**Walking Safety**

For your safety and comfort we recommend that you take the following with you on your walk: bottled water, snacks, a waterproof jacket, waterproof/sturdy boots, a woolly hat and fleece (in winter and cold weather), a fully-charged mobile phone, a whistle, a compass and a map of the area. Check the weather forecast before you leave, carry appropriate clothing and do not set out in fog or mist as these conditions can seriously affect your ability to navigate the route. Take particular care on cliff/mountain paths where steep drops can present a particular hazard. Some routes include sections along roads – take care to avoid any traffic at these points. Around farmland take care with children and dogs, particularly around machinery and livestock. If you are walking on the coast make sure you check the tide times before you set out.



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