

Thurlby Parish Submission, reference Fosse Green Energy application (EN010154), for deadline 3 i.e. 20th March 2026 of the Planning Examination.

Thurlby Parish objects to the Fosse Green Energy planning application, citing serious concerns about significant lack of detail e.g. location of battery storage and overhead or underground cabling, traffic safety, landscape impact and screening issues, and the applicant's credibility.

Context and Setting

Thurlby is a small historic hamlet with minimal lighting, open skies, a 1,000-year-old church, and war graves of national and international importance. The proposal would surround the hamlet on three sides with solar panels close to homes, listed buildings, and ancient monuments. The Parish argues that vague and "indicative" plans make it impossible to properly assess the range of impacts.

Site Selection and National Policy

The Parish contends that the site selection does not comply with National Policy Statements EN-1 and EN-3, nor the Clean Power 2030 Initiative. Numerous other Interested Parties have detailed the position on this which we support and endorse.

Significant Lack of Detail

It is a matter of record, and concern, that there are still so many aspects and issues either, or both, lacking in substantive detail or classified as "Indicative". These include potential battery storage plans, footpath closures, screening timing, quality and effectiveness, plus Community Funding and others.

Landscape and Visual Impact

The development would permanently transform open agricultural land into an industrial landscape for 40–60 years, which the Parish argues is not temporary. Construction impacts, long-term maintenance, lighting, hedging, and cumulative effects with other Lincolnshire schemes would severely damage landscape character, agriculture, soil quality and structure, plus food security.

Tourism and Local Economy

Tourism—second only to agriculture in our 2023 Local Plan—would be harmed. Walking routes, caravan parks, war grave visitors, and the internationally recognised Lost Village music festival are all at risk. Please note that people do travel from around the world, to visit The Commonwealth War, and other Military, graves in Thurlby.

Traffic and Highways

Construction and operational traffic, including HGVs, would use narrow, unclassified roads unsuitable for heavy vehicles, increasing safety risks, congestion, and road damage. Please note that Clay Lane is an unclassified, category 5 or 6 road and totally unsuitable for heavy traffic usage. Additionally there is a cumulative impact concern due to other planning projects in the immediate area for Biogas facilities which will significantly increase farming/HGV traffic.

Applicant Credibility

There is real disappointment with the applicant about both the "Lack of Detail" aspect and also the Community Fund. Despite warm indications, even promises, at the 2023/24 FGE Community Consultations, it now appears that the earliest any such funds might materialise will be the mid 2030's at the earliest. There is considerable concern, because it is believed that the applicant will sell the entity, and any granted planning permission, to some unknown third party. It is not certain that Fosse Green will be around to deliver, nor be responsible and answerable for, any of their promises and future commitments. It is believed that this is the underlying reason for so much "Lack of Detail". Consequently, we request that such future commitments are made a planning condition binding on any future owners.

Conclusion

Thurlby Parish formally objects to the proposal and requests that it is dismissed.