

Issue-Specific Hearing 3 (ISH3): Fosse Green Energy Ltd Solar Farm Proposal

11th–12th March – LNER Stadium

Written Representation – Objections in Relation to Matters for Discussion

Scale of the Proposed Development, including Provision for Farmland Bird Mitigation and Biodiversity Net Gain

The sheer scale of the proposed solar farm is excessive and out of keeping with the rural character of the area. The extent of land coverage, together with associated infrastructure, represents a substantial and inappropriate industrialisation of the countryside.

While the Applicant proposes farmland bird mitigation and biodiversity net gain measures, there is insufficient certainty that these will be effective or deliver meaningful long-term benefits. The reliance on managed habitats within a heavily engineered site raises concerns about whether such mitigation can genuinely replicate or enhance existing ecological conditions.

Furthermore, there is a lack of clarity regarding how these measures will be maintained and enforced over the operational lifetime of the development. The scale of the proposal risks causing ecological disruption that cannot be fully offset by the proposed mitigation.

Landscape and Visual Effects

The development would result in significant adverse effects on the landscape. The introduction of extensive solar arrays, fencing, CCTV equipment, and substations would fundamentally alter the open and rural character of the area.

Views from public rights of way and nearby settlements would be negatively affected, with the development creating a visually intrusive and industrial presence. Proposed landscaping mitigation is unlikely to be effective in the short to medium term and may itself alter the character of the landscape.

Overall, the harm to landscape character and visual amenity is substantial and should weigh heavily against the proposal.

Population Effects

The proposal would have adverse impacts on the local population, particularly those living in close proximity to the site.

Residents are likely to experience a loss of amenity through visual intrusion, potential noise from infrastructure, and changes to the character of their surroundings.

The construction phase would bring additional disruption through increased traffic, noise, and general disturbance. There is also concern about the longer-term impact on quality of life, including the loss of rural tranquillity.

The development offers limited tangible benefits to the local community, and these do not outweigh the negative effects on residents.

Cultural Heritage and Archaeology

The proposed development has the potential to harm the setting of heritage assets within and around the site. Even where direct physical impacts are limited, the introduction of large-scale infrastructure into a rural setting can diminish the significance and appreciation of heritage features.

There is also concern that archaeological remains within the site may be affected by groundworks associated with construction. The extent to which these impacts can be mitigated remains uncertain.

The cumulative impact on heritage assets and their settings has not been fully addressed and represents a further reason for concern.

Conclusion

While the need for renewable energy is recognised, this proposal represents an inappropriate development in terms of its scale, location, and impacts. The harms identified across the matters discussed above are significant and have not been adequately mitigated.

It is therefore respectfully requested that development consent for the Fosse Green Energy Ltd Solar Farm be refused.