

## Follow up text Submission of Oral Contribution at Open Floor Hearing of 11/03/2026

### Alistair King 19/03/2026 (for Deadline 3)

In September 2023 Fosse Green Energy issued an 'Information Booklet' to local residents describing it's proposed solar farm.

On the first page (after cover page) it declared in a headline in large print: "The project is anticipated to have a generating capacity of c.350MW peak dc, with an export capacity of 240MW peak ac. This is enough clean energy to power in the region of 110,000 homes."

It restated in two very large boxes on the third page "350 MW and 110,000 Homes".

This will have been the first that local people heard of the project. The two main messages from the brochure were very clear and obviously deemed the most important messages about the project that the company wished to impart on all interested parties.

There will have been very good reason for this. Large hard headed investment companies and their marketing/communications advisers think very carefully about the reaction they want to achieve in their target audience.

In this case they presumably wished to soften up their audience and get them on-board with the project by portraying how good it is, and thus minimise the likelihood of objections. This was clearly designed to give them as easy a ride as possible through the application process.

The problem is that their facts were wholly misleading. The Advertising Standards Authority may not have jurisdiction over such a brochure, however its guidelines are entirely applicable here if the public is not to be misled. They state that wherever claims are objective and measurable, then the context and assumptions should be made clear. This was not done here.

#### 1. Mega Watt claim

A Mega Watt is a measure of capacity not energy produced.

The only things of interest in terms of trying to justify the use of this land to the detriment of the public is **(a) amount** of energy produced and **(b) when** it is produced (over daily and seasonal cycles).

Neither of these pieces of qualifying information was provided.

##### a) Amount of energy produced.

To estimate the amount of energy produced we have to know the 'capacity factor'. It sounds technical, but simply speaking in terms of solar power this is just how often the sun shines or how much daylight we have over a period of 24 hours, or over the four seasons.

For our latitude and weather patterns this has been shown empirically to give a capacity factor of around 10 to 11.5%. This compares with traditional generators achieving greater than 90%.

So, as portrayed by the applicant the MW figure should either be properly qualified, or better still they should state the expected energy to be produced (in MW hours) over a period of a year.

#### **b) When the Energy is Produced**

The capacity of solar farms runs in accordance with a 24 hour (daylight) cycle and 365 day seasonal cycle. This is obvious, but obscured in the MW claim. The key problem with these natural cycles is that they run almost diametrically opposite to the consumer usage cycle. This means that solar power has to be supported by grid balancing at a huge extra cost.

### **2. Homes Powered Claim**

The proposed Fosse Green solar farm cannot and will never 'Power 110,000 Homes'. This is because, as stated above, the energy is generated on a very different cycle to the consumer usage cycle. This can be partly offset by the applicant's use of batteries. However, by their own admission their batteries would only cover about two hours of output/demand. And that is assuming they get fully charged during the day, which is highly unlikely from solar during the winter months. So, their batteries will only play a small part in flattening out the energy provision cycle.

This means, as for all solar, that a high degree of grid balancing will be required by energy from other sources.

The last solar auction round, AR7, achieved a strike price of about £65 per MWh, index linked and guaranteed through the Contract for Differences mechanism for 20 years. However, it has been estimated that full grid integration costs (including balancing for periods of no solar) can be of the order of an additional £30 per MWh. This is incorporated into electricity prices for consumers but not reflected as a solar cost.

The applicant may contend that their use of 'MW' and 'Homes Powered' figures are industry norms – but this does not make it right. In particular the 'MW' figure was historically reasonable for comparison of traditional power generators that operated at nearer 100% capacity factor, but has been disingenuously adopted by the solar industry to mislead the public.

I contend that Fosse Green Energy has succeeded in their objective of [REDACTED] the public about how [REDACTED] their proposals are, and this [REDACTED] has resulted in a reduction in public outrage and objections that might have been the case had they been given [REDACTED] information.

This should not be allowed to continue. It would appear that the only mechanism to stop this [REDACTED] is for this planning application to be rejected on the basis of [REDACTED] from the applicant.

**Footnote/Correction:**

In my oral submission on 11/03/2026 I think I misquoted a 'fun fact'.

I think I stated that it was estimated that Modular Nuclear would take 4 acres to power 100,000 homes, whereas solar would take 17,000 acres.

The figures I intended to state were 4 acres vs 1,700 acres per 100,000 homes.

(and even then of course the solar option would not fully power them!)