



## Hearing Transcript

<b>Project:</b>	Fosse Green Energy
<b>Hearing:</b>	Open Floor Hearing 1 (OFH1)
<b>Date:</b>	11 March 2026

**Please note:** This document is intended to assist Interested Parties.

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The video recording published on the Planning Inspectorate project page is the primary record of the hearing.

# REDACTED\_FOSSEGREEN\_OFH1\_SESSION1\_120326

Fri, Mar 13, 2026 3:38PM • 2:10:50

00:04

Good evening, everybody. It is now five o'clock,

00:09

and therefore this open for hearing,

00:12

open for hearing, one

00:15

is now open. And can I just confirm? Can everybody in the room hear me getting nods. Thank you. And for those of you are online, can somebody indicate whether you can both hear and see us and raise your hand?

00:33

Yep, getting an indication. Thank you.

00:37

Can I check with the case team that both the recording and the live Yep. Thank you.

00:44

My name is Graham Gould. I'm a charter town planner and I'm a planning inspector, and I've been appointed by the Secretary of State to be the lead panel member to examine this application. Now I'm going to hand over to my colleague

00:56

Good evening. My name is Frances Wilkinson. I am also a chartered town planner and planning inspector, and I have also been appointed by the Secretary of State to be a panel member for the examination of this application.

01:11

Also present with us are Mr. Simon raywood Case Manager and Jessica Dunlop case officer, who most of you will have already met in registering for this meeting,

01:29

just a few brief housekeeping matters. Can everybody please make sure that you got your devices and mobile phones set on silent mode? Thank you. Should anybody need the toilet? The toilets are behind me to the right, there's a corridor, and there's Ladies and Gents

01:48

on the right hand side. As you walk down the corridor, if for any reason, fire alarm sounds, we will need to evacuate the building and wait, apparently, by gates one and three outside, and then wait for instructions from the staff as to when we can return to the building.

02:12

There is no formal agenda for this meeting, other than we have prepared a running list for participants,

02:24

for those parties who have registered to make oral representations, expanding on their written representations. Today, the order in which we will invite you to speak will be as per the lists included in the agenda that was issued on the fourth of March, there is one exception. We We thought that somebody was representing a parish council when they're here in a personal capacity, so that they will be taken slightly out of turn in terms of what's printed,

02:56

and the running order has been determined by alphabetical name of organization and or surnames.

03:05

Today's hearing is being undertaken by means of a hybrid method. So some of well, in fact, it's the majority. I think participants are in the room with us, and there are also a few participants who are online. So

03:26

and particularly for those of you who are online, we'll we'll make it clear when we'd like to hear from yourselves. A

03:37

recording of today's hearing will be made available on the foster Green energy project section of the national infrastructure planning website, as soon as practicable after the hearing has finished, with that in mind, would you please ensure that you speak clearly into a microphone, and in that respect, the speakers in the room, as you're called, we'd ask you to come forward to the table where The mics are, and if you would use one of those

04:09

microphones, and for those of you who are attending, particularly in a personal capacity, if you would just give your name when you're about To start speaking and avoid giving any personal information, such as your address or anything else that you would wish or not wish to be in the public domain. That will then avoid a need for the recording to be edited once this meeting meeting has concluded,

04:43

a link to the planning inspectorates privity notice was provided in the notification for this hearing. We assume that everybody has familiarized themselves with that document which establishes how personal data is handled by the Inspector.

05:00

Are in accordance with the principles set out in data protection laws.

05:05

If you're unclear about anything to do with the data protection side of things, please speak with the case team.

05:11

The purpose

05:14

of this hearing is to give you an opportunity to raise anything directly with the examining authority that you consider is important and relevant, and that you think we should know about the

05:29

subject of your representations are therefore up to you, but we would remind you of the guidance that we provided in the first item of annex F of our rule six, letter which we issued on the ninth of December last year, which is Library Reference Ed 008

05:50

concerning ethical matters,

05:55

interested parties and other past persons are participating in This hearing. Are encouraged to limit their submissions about the proposed development to its effect on land it would occupy and or the area within the vicinity of that land.

06:10

Due to the number of parties wishing to speak, we will be setting a time limit for up to five minutes for individuals and 10 minutes for organizations.

06:22

Organizations include the parish councils and community

06:26

groups, and we will indicate when your time is coming up. Towards the end,

06:33

we would ask speakers to avoid repeating what they previously said, either when they been present at hearings and or have made written submissions.

06:51

We are tight for time this evening, as we understand

06:57

it, we are expected to rise at about seven o'clock. You may get a few minutes

07:05

license in that regard, but we've got quite a few people to hear. So it is important, as I said earlier, that you try and avoid repeating things. And if you've heard something from another party and you agree with that party, then there's no need to repeat what they've said, you can just indicate that you agree with X or Y that that will be sufficient

07:31

entities must not clap or shout out in response to any comments made by anybody during the course of their

07:38

speaking time. And finally, there will be an opportunity for the applicant

07:43

to comment on any matters, should they wish to, or if they prefer, they can leave those missions to writing.

07:53

Before we hear from speakers. I'm going to turn to the applicant and just ask for any instructions and how you post to conduct your side this evening, in terms of whether or not you expect to make any comments in response to what you hear or will rely on writing.

08:15

So thank you. My name is Ruben Taylor King's Council, and I representing the applicant.

08:23

So we

08:25

consider that the open floor hearing is very much an opportunity for the local community to express their views on the project. We don't intend to participate directly this this evening, however, we will reserve the opportunity to respond in writing to comments that are made should the need arise. Thank you.

08:50

Thank you. Mr. Taylor,

09:07

unless there's anything of a procedure on nature that anybody wishes to raise, we'll we'll go straight to

09:13

the first participant,

09:16

not seeing anything in the room, anything from anybody online?

09:24

Okay, then, can we hear from Caroline Johnson? MP, thank you.

09:31

Thank you very much. And I'm Dr Caroline Johnson. I'm the Member of Parliament for Sleaford and North highcomb. Thank you very much for allowing me to join you today for this important open floor hearing about the proposed FOSS green energy solar farm. I'd also like to, at the beginning, declare that my husband is a local farmer and agricultural contractor.

09:52

As many are aware, the FOSS green energy solar farm would cover 2400

09:57

acres. That would be equal to around 1000

10:00

360 football pitches of farmland within the Sleaford and North hiking constituency, and about one and a half times the size of the town of Sleaford.

10:11

I've been long campaigning for large scale solar farm applications within my constituency to be halted with over 9000 acres of live NCIP solar applications locally, the cumulative impact of these is deeply concerning, and I've been working closely with affected residents, parish councils and action groups to raise their many concerns about the site. I'm grateful that many have come to this hearing today and will be speaking later on to highlight the disastrous impact this application would have on them and our community. I've attended and spoken at public meetings of the cliff villages solar Action Group, and I know how worried my constituents are about this application. We are clear that these industrial scale solar farms on productive farmland are not the right solution.

11:00

Firstly, I'm concerned this application and the others in my constituency will have a disastrous impact on the availability of best and most versatile agricultural land in the area, according to the FOSS Green Energy Solar Farm, 6.3 Es appendix 12 B, agricultural land classification report, the site is primarily made up of grade three A, BMV land and grade 3b which remains good farmland. Lincolnshire is the bread basket of the country and produces 30% of the country's vegetables. The land in our county is also more productive than the UK average. The wheat harvest in our county over the past difficult five years was 25% above the UK average, and it is much more productive than global averages, too. Agricultural land like we have in Lincolnshire is the land we can least afford to use lose, like the NPPF, the updated n, p, s, e, n3

11:57

recommends that developers are

12:03

everyone recommends that developers should try using poor quality land instead of higher quality agricultural land, and avoid the use of BMV land wherever possible. In a written statement in May 2024 the previous government offered further guidance on the use of best and most versatile land for solar farms instead of food production. It explained how these competing priorities should be balanced, clarifying a policy set out in the NPS. Firstly, the starting point for developers should be to minimize the impact on the best and most versatile land and use land instead in areas of poorer quality, there is a greater onus on developers to show the use of higher quality land is necessary as land grade increases,

12:47

decision makers should give due weight to the proposed use of best and most versatile land when considering whether consent should be granted. The

12:55

government also added that decision makers should not only consider the impact of individual proposals themselves, but also the cumulative impact, where several proposals come forward in the same locality, such as we have seen in this county and my constituency,

13:13  
2400

13:14  
acres of agricultural land could produce 8640

13:18  
tons of wheat, over 6 million loaves of bread, or 177

13:24  
million Weetabix. The application states that the land could be out of agricultural use for up to 60 years, six zero, 60 years, far longer than the usual 40 year time limit in NPS en three. In this time, the technology will have significantly advanced, and the soil underneath these outdated panels will have been deprived of light, rendering it much poorer quality for future generations, again, creating long term impacts for food security into the future. Much of this land has been relied on for farming for centuries and forms an important part of the character of our area.

14:02  
Furthermore, with regards to cumulative impact, we cannot view this application in isolation. Heckington fen solar farm, 1300

14:10  
acres, sitting in the neighboring Grantham and Bourne constituency, was approved by the government in January 2025 this sits within the same district as FOSS green energy solar farm North casteing district, where the N sip, South Lincoln to reservoir proposal, plus the 1000s of acres of other pending solar farm applications are proposed

14:31  
due to the topography of the land. This site is highly visible and will impact a far greater area than prescriptively described, within a range use of navenby and all within one small county council electoral division, there are proposals for the FOS green energy solar farm, battery battery storage, best facilities, navenby substation and leoda solar farm. Nearby to the east also lies the spring World Solar Farm application, the cumulative impact of so many solar.

15:00  
Associated infrastructure applications in one district, and this application's case within a small radius too, is more than unreasonable for local people to bear. They're rightly worried and rightly angry that they're being subjected to the possibility of severe industrialisation in our small part of Lincolnshire. To highlight this further, my constituency is the second most affected constituency in the country with solar proposals, with around 7% of the constituency as a whole to be covered by solar and existing applications alone,

15:32  
there is a risk at the end of use, these sites are no longer able to be returned to a good agricultural land due to the impact on the site. The most affected areas of all at the neighboring constituency of Gainsborough, urban constituency of Newark, at 8.84%

15:46

and also neighboring Gainsborough has severely affected at 5% of land turned over to current or pending approvals. The cumulative impact of this infrastructure and the impact on agricultural land in the district and wider area must be considered.

16:01

The impact of these applications on local assets should be considered with the loss of nature and biodiversity, impact on house prices and the mental effects of deindustrial of the industrialization of an area of open rural countryside. There are many local RAF based bases within the vicinity of this application, including RAF Waddington, homes about arrows, RAF Digby and RAF Cromwell. Moreover, RAF Digby is the headquarters of the joint cyber and electromagnetic magnetic activities group. Any interference of these defense estates would cause significant harm. There is also significant concerns about battery energy storage system facilities linked to this application, because the potential fire risk of lithium ion batteries. Lithium ion batteries can catch fire because of thermal runaway while individual batteries made had to have to adhere to product safety regulations. This does little to give reassurance in the context, there have been two documented incidents of best fire in the UK in recent years, and there are no laws that govern the safety of best facilities. Specifically, recent incidents include a fire at the best site in Liverpool and a best project under construction in Essex in February 2025

17:10

My constituents are also incredibly concerned that it is believed that slave labor is being used for the production of solar panels. The links between Canadian solar behind the foster Green Energy Solar Farm is documented in the Sheffield Hallam reports in broad daylight, 2021 and overexposed, 2023

17:28

the solar industry can be seen as particularly vulnerable for forced labor. 95% of solar modules rely on one primary material, solar grade polysilicon.

17:41

Polysilicon manufacturers in the Uyghur region, for example, account for 45% of the world's world's solar grade polysilicon supply in 2021 four shipments were seized by the US authorities in crackdowns on goods with links to forced labor. The government must look into these serious allegations and reassure the public that any transition to net zero does not come at the expense of using slave labor.

18:06

I have conducted a survey in my constituency in the areas most affected by large scale NSIP applications in our area, including the FOSS green energy solar farm. Letters were sent directly to 1000s of households in slieveton, North highcomb, and I received over 2000 handwritten responses of the respondents, 90% were concerned about the enormous scale of the proposals, and 68 were concerned. Per cent were extremely concerned about the use of productive farmland, and 55 per cent were extremely concerned about the visual impact. As I said earlier, Lincolnshire is the nation's bread basket. It produces 30 per cent of the UK's vegetables. My constituents understand the importance of backing our farmers. This is why the most common response from my survey was that we must protect our prime agricultural land in the incest interest of food security in a potentially more dangerous world that we see at the moment, I urge you not to recommend this application.

19:02

Thank you.

19:06

Thank you, Dr Thompson, I presume you were speaking to a written note. Will you be able to submit that at the next examination deadline? I

19:16

can submit notes to the next deadline. If that's helpful to you too, that would be Yeah. Thank you.

19:28

Right then, moving on to

19:31

Scott wick and Kirby green parish council. I believe that's Mark Williams speaking on behalf of the parish council. I

19:59

would.

20:00

Would you like us to give you an indication of when you're getting to nine minutes? Nine and a half minutes? Any idea how long you might think you're going to take? I should be less than that good, okay.

20:16

Mark Williams, representing scottbrook parish council in response to FOSS green, good evening Chairman. My name is Mark Williams. I'm chair of scotwich and Kirkby green parish council, and I'm representing our wonderful community. Over the next few days, I'm sure you'll hear impassioned statements imploring you to refuse this application. We truly hope you take these statements on board. There are so many people who fear that this is simply a rubber stamping exercise. We truly hope it is not. There are also a significant number of people who have been disenfranchised due to the scheduling of these processes. As you will have seen from the number of people who are registered to be interested parties, the overwhelming feeling of this community is that foster green solar is the wrong solution in the wrong place. Over the last 36 months, we have constantly sought the views of our community, and the overwhelming majority are totally against this proposed solar factory. We are happy we are here today because our communities are under threat, and it is time we called it out for what it is, an attack on the best agricultural land our communities and the by environmental speculators.

21:30

Over the next few days, you won't hear people supporting this monstrous development, but you will hear many passionate views against it. There will undoubtedly, undoubtedly be some repetition, but all these voices should be heard. Solar factories are being pushed onto our doorsteps by develop by developers who don't care about the community or the wider county of Lincolnshire. They care about lining their own pockets. They dress it up with fancy words like green energy, sustainability and biodiversity net gain. But make no mistake, this is nothing more than industrialization of the countryside, pure and simple. It is also very clear that the current owners of the land have turned their backs on agriculture and their reputations for being good landowners.

22:15

Once the fields are carpeted under glass and steel, we won't get them back. That was highlighted this afternoon in issue specific hearing three by the applicants legal team, who essentially said, after 60 years, we have no expectation that this will, this land will be returned to good agricultural land. There

are suggestions that at the end of 60 years, the land will be handed back to agriculture. I think we all know this is nonsense. The developers can't demonstrate a single site where this has happened. On the contrary, there are sites that have been impacted by fire hurricanes and have been abandoned, creating a complete eyesore. There are many sites across the world that have been left blighted by industry, which will never be decontaminated and returned to the original state.

23:03

These are the types of land locations that are, in fact, perfect for solar in the coming days. And in submissions to the inspector, there will be evidence put forward that highlight quite clearly the potential damage to the land during the construction phase, the operational phase and the potential decommissioning phase, a key point we would like to raise is what bonds or insurances will be put in place to cover decommission, decommissioning and any other disasters that occur due To this development in the 60 year life cycle. The

23:53

the applicant is also being disingenuous with with the generation and output figures expected from FOSS grain we all know the UK climate is not conducive to solar. Yes, it has limited scope on rooftops, but it is certainly not a solution for a leading economy. The applicant has pushed at every has pushed at every open meeting and in multiple submissions to sorry, in multiple submissions to disclose where the panels and other material will be sourced from, and they've declined to comment.

24:34

Canadian solar is also on a US watch list, and has been sanctioned for that, for the very use of slave labor in 2026 we should be better than this, and no product should be sourced from markets where slave labor is prevalent. Our understanding is a primary goal of any planning consent is the application should do, should do no harm. This application is a scar on the area it will.

25:00

Destroy a significant amount of primary farmland, it will forever spoil the tranquil landscape that so many of us enjoy, and it will have a significant impact on many people's well being. Let's look at the cumulative effects. Dr Johnson has already highlighted several of them. Our community works hard to support the environment, and as a parish, we have supported schemes that promote and drive to a greener future. This and the other proposed schemes in this area do nothing to support the environment or enrich our lives whilst the inspector is only examining foster green application, it is incumbent on the planning team to to also consider to not only consider this application in isolation, within a very small radius, there are a number of biomass facilities more planned. There are several small solar sites already in operation. One NCIP solar facility already granted in Headington Fen, three more, including FOSS green, leoda and Springwell in the planning phase. Several large, best sites. One associated associated with FOSS green, and at least another two also in the planning phase. And And finally, a National Grid substation

26:10

also entering the planning phase. I would also highlight at this point that the liodo application has not shown any

26:21

pictures of the best site, any pictures of the National Grid site, all of which, again, it shows a complete lack of transparency. Where are the images? It's quite easy to show images of butterflies near solar panels

26:38

hidden by hedges, but where are the real pictures of houses and substations.

26:46

These developments will result in decimation of 1000s of acres of prime agricultural land and will turn a beautiful landscape into a huge industrial complex. The planning inspector must take this on board. And

27:00

we all know that North Coast Stephen and the wider link and Lincoln County Council are also against these applications.

27:09

Let's also look at the battery storage and the risk the applicant. The applicant within this development is proposing a significant best, as with other applications, the current application is once again, being very vague on detail, and using the Rochdale envelope principle to avoid scrutiny, we need to know precise details of what is coming, where it all be located, and detailed specifications on how issues will be dealt with. Currently, all of this is very vague. We don't need to investigate the annals of history to see the impact of best facilities going wrong, Moss Landing in the US. Dr Johnson has already mentioned Essex and Liverpool.

27:52

Window recurrent or Canadian soil, will try and say they are different that and we should simply trust them. This can't seriously be a reasonable route through planning our community need 100% guarantees that no harm will be done to the environment, water courses and the communities if a fire was to occur, there are no details in this application that mitigate the real risks we will face. Even the minimal detail provided is an attempt to minimize any potential risk. For example, is there enough water to suppress a fire? The

28:27

applicant has said there is enough water for a few hours. Well, the evidence is best fires typically burn for a minimum of several days, if not several weeks. There is a real risk of best fire contamination, this would lead to chemical leaks and groundwater contamination of hazardous materials, including heavy metals like lithium cobalt, nickel and manganese. Contamination would be permanent, or very long lasting. Who would be responsible for remedying any contamination? It will not be the applicant. It will fall on local communities and probably the county council,

29:06

landscape and visual impact. There is no reasonable person who can say this development won't have a devastating impact on the landscape. One of the things that has recently

29:18

been developed in this area is the the

29:23

Lancaster bomber statue on the A 46 a beautiful site. As you enter Lincoln,

29:31

what will, what will this development do? So you pass the beautiful Lancaster bomber on the A 46 only to be confronted by masses of solar panels. As you, as you enter the view of the of our beautiful cathedral. Again, it's, it's just criminal. What is being done again, the applicant talks, or keeps talking

about a grid connection. Let's be absolutely clear, there is no grid connection, and until there is a grid connection. This app.

30:00

Application should not be granted

30:04

community benefit. You, where you've got about 15 seconds left, there is no community benefit to

30:11

to the community and so, yeah, essentially, what I would say is

30:17

from

30:20

from an application perspective, there's no justification for this. It should not be granted. And I think the community feeling is we prefer it to go away. Thank you.

30:33

Thank you, Miss. Really, just before you leave, are you also going to be talking on behalf of Springwell solar Action Group? Yep,

30:46

Nick Lyons, on behalf of Thorpe on the Hill parish council.

31:00

Hello, good evening. Just before you start, would you like a reminder of where you are? Time wise, or do you think you're going to be comforted? I've rehearsed mine, and it's less than 10 minutes.

31:15

Good evening, everyone. My name is Nick Lyons, and I'm the chair of Thorp on the Hill parish council. In order to avoid duplication, I intend to confine my input to matters which have not been covered elsewhere. I'd firstly like to start by thanking you for organizing this event. There are a number of requests, and I'm very pleased that you've been able to organize it. That's very much appreciated.

31:40

First item I'd like to cover is cumulative traffic, a recent nkdc Planning application, 25 oblique, 1612, oblique full proposes a satellite feedstock storage facility at Haddington lane. This application is yet another example of industrialization on an industrial on agricultural landscape, also of major concern is the potential impact upon traffic. The applicant for this scheme envisages 9000 extra HGV movements into the area, though several responses from local residents point to flaws in this calculation. These additional HGV movements have only recently emerged and therefore were probably outside the modeling for the fge scheme and worst case scenarios. Additionally, the entrance to the feedstock storage facility is directly opposite construction and access point C, 003,

32:39

field four, oblique 16 from lands Plan A, P, P, 007,

32:45

the fact that these two site entrances lie opposite one another, close to the browbo hill on the de restricted road presents a significant risk of accidents and should be reviewed carefully.

32:58

The second topic is Community Liaison Group and benefit fund.

33:04

At a recent community liaison meeting, representatives from local parishes met the applicant who confirmed their intention to establish a community benefit fund. I understand that such funds cannot form part of planning considerations, but this concerns policy matters.

33:23

The applicant explained how the fund would operate and be administered once the project is operational. Having familiarized ourselves with nkdc policy entitled large scale energy community benefit policy, which was adopted in January 2024

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we took some comfort from the fact that this states the following,

33:46

this policy will be relevant to both applications made for planning permission, where the electricity generation to the grid is under 50 megawatts a year, and for nationally significant infrastructure projects that seek a development consent order for electricity generation at 50 megawatts per year or over. However, at our recent meeting, the applicant claimed this policy does not apply in this case, despite the fact that, to our eyes, it seems to have been created specifically to cover these types of projects.

34:20

The applicant is proposing to commit only 8% of the pounds per megawatt specified by the nkdc policy.

34:30

Is the applicant suggesting that this project has less impact than other similar schemes, and if so, please, could they provide the evidence? Or is this simply a means to maximize their own returns at the expense of local communities.

34:46

The applicant claims that this project will generate power for 110,000

34:50

homes, which leads many local residents in the population at large to expect they will somehow be the beneficiaries of locally cheap electricity.

35:00

Looking at the published population figures for the affected villages, there are approximately 10,000 people living in the area. The applicant's contribution from this fund is equivalent to less than 10 pounds per person. This is a far cry from the meaningful reduction in utility bills that many people expect

35:22

shooting rights is my next point. A long standing resident of Thorpe on the Hill who form formally farmed some of the affected fields no longer owns this land, but he has retained shooting rights. Has

the applicant considered such rights, and do they propose to acquire the rights by compulsory acquisition?

35:47

The next topic, which I don't need to cover, was the Lincoln and Witham landscape recovery project, because we talked about that earlier today, so I will not

35:57

elaborate any further on that. Land use is my next topic. The applicant has stated that about half of the agricultural land falling within the project boundary is used for non food crops, such as biofuel. In so doing, the applicant implies that less weight should be applied to the loss of crops for human consumption.

36:18

However, the applicant has not addressed, and the inquiry should now consider the loss of output from fge land on, for example, local bio digestion units. We feel that this matter has been given inadequate consideration, as it is clear that a considerable investment has been made in local bio digestion facilities and evidence in the form of two recent local planning applications in the last couple of months, suggests a continuing push to develop more if

36:48

phosphorylated energy is consented and the process and proceeds, it seems likely that alternative sources of crops to feed the bio digestion sites will be sought to replace the Production lost to solar development, This, in turn, would likely impact food production elsewhere.

37:07

Site inspections is my next topic

37:11

with regard to the impact on public rights of way and the potential adverse effects on visual amenity. We very much welcome the thorough accompanied site inspection yesterday and the inspectors unaccompanied site visit inspection from December 2025

37:31

in a previous submission, we proposed that attempts should be made to war some of the key sections of local footpath, as this provides the most realistic assessment of The real world impact that cannot be gained from either static locations or by looking at simulations in the form of photo montages, which have been carefully selected and presented in a way to minimize the apparent impact and overlay the benefits of mitigation actions. We note that the inspector plans to conduct further unaccompanied inspections. But if this proves impossible to keep to view key views, we would like to ask whether suitable drone footage which we have produced would be submissible as evidence.

38:17

And finally, the consultation process

38:24

I am sure that the applicant has complied with his statutory obligations with regard to consultation, and yet, I, along with local residents, feel short changed by the process.

38:40

Thorpe's neighborhood plan contained key parish priorities, and yet these have been largely ignored.

38:48

At no point did the applicant reach out to the parish council and offer a chance to be involved up front to try and find a scheme which might be acceptable as some sort of compromise. The scheme was only presented when supported by endless justifications prepared by experts with hundreds of technical documents. The planning application is substantially unchanged from that originally developed.

39:17

The lack of an attempt to involve communities up front in the process contrast starkly with a long standing consultation and discussions with local landowners to formulate a scheme that best suits their needs.

39:34

Is it any wonder that the current process leads to an adversarial position and communities are left feeling schemes like these are imposed upon them by external agencies against their will. Thank you very much.

39:51

Thank you. Just before you,

39:54

before you go, you raised a particular point about site visits versus drone.

40:00

Footage,

40:02

I think, rest assured, Mrs. Wilkinson and I will be making physical site inspections.

40:08

I know drone footage, I think, has been used in some other cases. One case that I was working on, it was suggested, but I took the view, no, I want to see it in person, and that's how I prefer to inspect sites.

40:25

Now turning to

40:28

Marion Overton on behalf of Cliff villages.

40:34

Thank you very much. Would you like some sort of thank you a minute, a minute. Nine minutes out. Okay, thanks very much. Marianne Overton, Councilor, Mrs. Marion Overton, MBE, representing the cliff villages solar Action Group, a local, independent district and county councilor who's supporting the community.

40:58

I thank the inspectors and the applicants and all everybody involved. There's been huge amounts of work on this. I've gone through this three times, through various committees, and appreciate that there

is a huge amount of work involved, yet we still find that there is. There are big gaps the back, gaps in evidence, so much frequently there's a deferral to technical guide, which would come time later. But also even things like the

41:31

battery storage is going to be one place or spread in 35 meter square approximately, compounds fenced throughout the area, or where 100 of those, and we don't know how many shipping containers of shipping container sized containers full of lithium battery. I've not had a clear answer to that again recently,

41:59

so there are many unknowns. Also what's worrying is the enforcement procedures these developments seem to be running ahead of the legislation. The community benefit is hard to be secured, as it might be if it were, for example, wind. But also, who is doing the monitoring, who is paying for it,

42:24

and the enforcement,

42:26

and how is that going to be carried out over the next 60 years,

42:31

particularly regarding the decommissioning, if these panels do not last 60 years, and of course, we don't believe they will be but they will need replacing, not just when they're end of life, but also when they're no longer cost effective, or there are better options available that will make more money for the developer if they manage to negotiate an increased grid connection.

42:57

So there will be replacements in any case, because that's what happens with these things, and there doesn't seem to be adequate certainty as to how they're going to be recycled. Is it going to be cost effective to recycle, or are they going to end up in landfill?

43:15

So despite all of the work involved, there are still really significant questions. If we had an application for four and a half 1000 houses and they said, oh, we'll let you know later. You know how many we're going to have and where they're going to be and where the open spaces are going to be, we'd say, No, you come back when you've got the detail. So I feel this is it's with no grid connection in place

43:44

and no certainty that will go through. It does have to go through planning process still.

43:51

And any case, if I were the government and I had a limited amount of energy required, you would put it where there is an already extant grid connection,

44:02

and you would put it near where the energy is needed.

44:07

So for example, on the six, I think it's 630,000

44:11

certainly hundreds of 1000s of commercial roofs that are vacant. And the government could easily make a law that says, or an announcement, a statement, even that says that these solar, or at least new buildings, should be energy efficient, and that commercial roofs need to be included in that

44:36

they have said, because we've written to the government, and the Prime Minister wrote back and said that he has put in place what is effectively a sequential test in en three where planning guidance makes it clear that wherever possible, developers should utilize Brownfield, industrial contaminated or previously developed land.

45:00

And

45:01

and yet that's not what we see happening on the ground.

45:08

What we do see is an application where the applicant has said that their choice of site was driven by the availability of deliverable and site suitability.

45:23

So if a landowner rings up says, I fancy having some solar. They say, Okay, let's create another several applications to make it cost effective. Have a have a have a substation, battery storage, then we better have some other things to make it all pay

45:43

that's not planning. You know, that doesn't sound like it's part of a national energy plan, a local energy plan or a regional energy plan.

45:55

It's not acceptable.

45:57

Planning is meant to be laying out for the good of everybody, not just for the developer's sake,

46:08

picking up on a few issues.

46:11

One is the landscape impact.

46:15

We've got to measure that against the benefit,

46:20

the benefit of the application in its energy production is reduced because the requirements are being met from elsewhere. And I know the applicant said they have a gate to something about the

connection, but it wasn't on the tech register, and they've had to create a new a new prescription, if you like, for that category of of NOT gate two agreements in place.

46:48

Then I think the second point is that the

46:51

battery storage is already well over supplied

46:57

nationally towards the government's targets, and therefore the need or the benefits of that are also reduced.

47:09

Where one says there's this many 1000 houses going to be supplied, that's presumably, if they're not already supplied from somewhere else,

47:21

perhaps from roofs, if you put them on the roofs of the commercial industry. Obviously, they don't even need to go through the grid.

47:30

Lincolnshire has an agricultural foundation with many isolated dwellings, hamlets and villages set in food producing countryside.

47:40

So that means that people do travel through the countryside. So it's not the view from one point that matters, it's the overall character of the landscape that matters to the way we see ourselves and our place in the land.

48:03

And then the point about emissions also is that you've got to create a lot of emissions in order to create these constructions. So it's creating an environmental disaster to protect another which, again, is unreasonable.

48:20

The battery safety is worrying for many of us, because we have seen examples of what can happen

48:31

if hot, if we have hot weather, even in this country, even without the busses,

48:36

we already have difficulties if there's more than one, more than two, more than three fires

48:43

in the county at any one time.

48:47

Our council fire resources

48:50

are not huge, and if you've got a problem in one area because, perhaps because of hot weather, there's going to be a problem in another.

48:59

These these problems don't appear on their own, and that we have seen as well in other parts of the country,

49:09

the decommissioning is over mentioned over 60 years, but the construction and deconstruction traffic together

49:19

is significant. It's an extra two years, two and a half years for construction and two years for for decommissioning.

49:28

That's on one site

49:31

we have

49:33

in front of us, three that are apparently connected, plus maybe up to five best sites,

49:40

plus substations, plus cables,

49:46

then that's just three which adds up to almost 10,000 acres within the immediate vicinity.

49:54

As we heard earlier in Lincolnshire, got 25

49:58

in North Costa and.

50:00

We've got over 5000 hectares

50:04

of solar and and water to be taken up a farmland. That's nine minutes. Thank you. So it's huge

50:14

on the local economy. We talked they talked about agriculture, but there's also a significant knock on impact of all the other parts of industry that are connected to that.

50:25

So I'm going to close just by saying that this application for solar is in the wrong place.

50:35

And when you look at the details of the application and the increasing number of problems and uncertainties and things that are left till later that we find you can see just how difficult it is.

50:48

It's the wrong size in the wrong place and needs to be refused. Thank you. Thank

50:57

you. Mrs. Thompson, I

51:03

um, then returning to Mark Williams on behalf of spring mill solar Action Group.

51:14

Sorry,

51:15

just so that we're clear.

51:21

I think, I think you, I heard you said you, yeah, yeah. So Mark Williams, Springwell, solar Action Group, I will waive my 10 minutes because there's a lot of repetition. Okay? Thank you. Thank you. For clarity.

51:33

What I should have said to a number of speakers, including Mr. Williams, I presume you're all speaking from notes, if you can submit those at the next deadline After this hearing

51:50

that then takes us to Ruth Abrahams,

52:06

Hello, good evening. Would you like minute warning? Up 32nd warning? Yep, that would be good. Thank you. 30 seconds or a minute? 30 seconds, I shouldn't take too long,

52:17

as I'm Ruth Abrahams. I'm a resident of Thorpe on the hill. I've already made an objection on the basis of site selection, site design,

52:28

damage to landscape, loss of

52:30

farmland, etc. Also fire, explosion, pollution, risks, responsibility for decommissioning. Obviously, other people have made great points, and I'm not going to go all through those. So just going to go on to a couple of other things, which is health and well being,

52:48

footpaths and the

52:51

tourism and associated businesses.

52:55

I think a lot was made this afternoon of the

52:59

peaceful rural environment being why people come and visit Lincolnshire, which is very true.

53:05

It's also why people choose to live here. It's why I chose to move here, to live in Thorpe on the hill from London

53:13

and from many, many people, the ability to walk in the countryside, whether it's a short walk or a longer route or whatever, from your doorstep is really important. It's particularly important for older people. People don't drive. It's a really, really important immunity.

53:31

And I know there's been a lot of comments from the applicant that you know,

53:36

the footpaths and the landscapes are not particularly valuable. Shouldn't really be protected, etc, but to the people who live there, it's their home and it's it's not the

53:50

sort of vastness and majesty of the landscape like you'd see perhaps in the Highlands of Scotland, but it's your home landscape, and you see the seasons and the crops and the changes in nature and the changes in the weather, and it's that small change in detail that you notice on a regular daily basis that really makes it for people. That's what was really important to them.

54:15

And I know the applicant sort of views the paths a lot as sort of just link routes. I think when this was initially proposed, they listed the path will they just connect villages? That's all they do. But they're not. They're jogging routes for people, dog walks, nature rambles. They're after work or after school strolls, or, you know, just go out for a little bit of quiet thought in nature and, you know, solve a few problems in your head and that kind of thing.

54:45

And it's not just the damage to the landscape. I don't think people have picked up on the noise, because we know that panels and the Transformers make noise, and that's going to be really, really important, because it will totally affect how any replacement.

55:00

Placement paths operate because it would just be noisy. You can't solve that. You can't screen that out effectively. And I think anyone that's got

55:11

sensory issues, they're, say, especially sensitive to noise or to glare or whatever, going to be particularly affected. And they're probably the people more likely to choose to live in a rural environment, to get away from the city, and they're going to be really impacted by this. And I think the applicant has also argued that it's only a small part of an extensive network of parts that's affected, but the project's footprint is what the size of city of Lincoln. It's not a small thing at all. And I think that really needs to be reiterated,

55:43

the applicant has been aware of, particularly the views in Thorpe about the footpaths right from the first consultation, and really has made pretty much no effort to actually address that whatsoever. We're just told, No, we've got to use those fields. That's it. We're not interested.

56:01

And that they also raised long distance footpaths. So Viking way was mentioned today, and as that's much more protected, apparently, because it's it's a long distance footpath and the views.

56:14

But obviously that's going to be adversely affected if the name and be substation goes ahead, or the best at Colby and all those things, all the other

56:22

solar project that's going to be really affected, and that doesn't it's not going to just bring in tourists on the Viking way, because there's currently

56:33

waymarking going on to add the Viking way into a long distance pilgrimage path, which will eventually link up with Santiago de Compostela in Spain, and that run from just outside Durham all the way to Southampton, and the Viking way is part of that. And I just think that people are going to look at what's happening in Lincolnshire and go, Oh, perhaps we'll just skip that bit out. And that's another, you know, stream of income for people with accommodation offers or restaurants or whatever they're not going to get that.

57:05

And I think large events like Lincolnshire show, or say, the steampunk Festival at the end of August could be really impacted if there's no accommodation or it's really limited, because there are all these different

57:22

projects being built, and all the accommodation is taken for other people, and that that that could be really quite serious for the local economy. And it isn't just accommodation and hospitality that's affected. I mean, I know I trade at various events and markets. I did I meet a lot of visitors, or people who and they travel around. They'll be staying in Skegness, but they'll travel into the country to see that for the day and experience it. Or they'll come to Lincoln to do the history

57:54

and all those traders or people do catering for that, the organizers, the venues, they're all going to be really affected by any lack of footfall. I've been a bit remiss making my notes and didn't keep an eye on the clock. But sorry if I run over, run over. I'm terribly sorry concluding my that is my conclusion. I've finished, so I'm sorry about that. That's right. No, I should have been keeping better watch while making

notes. Yeah, sorry I did. I wrote this about half an hour before we started and didn't rehearse it. Thank you very much. Thank you.

58:33

Hear from Teresa Brewer, please,

58:46

good evening. Would you like a minute please? At what point? One minute? One minute please. Thank you. Good evening. My name is Theresa Brewer,

58:58

visual harm to the landscape Harris, to adjust heritage assets and public rights of way, plus the loss of the BMV and productive farmland, do conflict with a number of policies, as made very clear by Dr Caroline Johnson and councilor Marianne Overton and I agree with all their points weight should be given to The detrimental effect this will have industrialisation of the area, the loss of productive arable farmland that affects national food security, the loss of arable farmland producing crops for animal feed or biomass energy plants, cumulative impact is of serious concern, and others before me have mentioned All the ones that are going on in and around. But the point is, these are also all on BMV and productive farmland and all in rural locations

59:53

temporary is a favorite word of the applicant, for example, saying that agricultural land is only temporarily available.

1:00:00

Unavailable for 60 years. They're relying on an assumption of reversibility being achieved, turning the fields of solar panels, or bonded areas of best back to quality productive farmland. Where is the evidence for this? Where are those fields in this country where once stood a solar farm on productive farmland. Many years ago,

1:00:23

I couldn't find any. Where are there any ex industrial sites in this country where the land is now arable, productive farmland?

1:00:33

I did some investigating. I couldn't really find any, but I did find that many are now nature reserves or sporting venues, or even residential

1:00:44

this probably makes sense as the definition of Greenfield land that found said it's land that has yet to be developed, therefore, once a solar farm, or best, it has been developed, and it's then presumably going to be classed as brownfield land, possibly at worst, toxic wasteland.

1:01:06

And how can it be temporary if all the cabling and underground infrastructure is being left there?

1:01:14

And as well to regarding the best, the fire in Glasgow on Sunday is opportune to remind us of huge concerns over batteries.

1:01:27

To put the temporary Ness into perspective, someone who has now just turned 16 years old will be 20 years old in 2030 when the applicant hopes to begin work. So 60 years on, at the end of the lifetime of the development, that 16 year old will be in his early 80s. So is there not old enough to vote, and may never see the decommissioning stage of this project. All his adult life will have been dominated by the effects of the development. That's not a temporary situation.

1:02:02

A public rights of way have been talked about this afternoon and a little bit this evening. But there's also the matter of cycling.

1:02:13

The close proximity of Lincoln city and North highcombe,

1:02:18

there are therefore intense residential developments in the south and west and that means that leisure cyclists can use the dedicated cycle path to access the bridge over the A 46 and then get to quieter country roads. Thorpe on the Hill is a popular route. It's also a route through to Doddington hall with a cycle shop and cafe, and then access to the National Cycle network route 64

1:02:43

the dedicated cycle path by the side of the 846. Carries on further south, after the Auburn Thorpe and bridge, as far as the swinderby roundabout. Again, the cyclists can currently access quite a country roads from here, either west to Witham st Hugh's, cartley, Moreland and basingham and east to swindeby and Morton. But those villages will all be affected by this proposed development spoiling not only the cycling in the countryside and that experience when the works are completed, but obviously, presumably, cause disruption during the years of construction,

1:03:25

and just regarding

1:03:27

the benefits I've managed to do it. You've got about 30 seconds left. Okay,

1:03:33

I'll leave it at

1:03:37

that. Thank you. No.

1:03:46

Do we have Michael Campbell,

1:04:05

what sort of reminder would you like? One minute, please? One minute. I wonder if I could just ask. You'll think I'm being opportunistic, but actually, my wife was down to speak, but unfortunately she can't make it. If I ran over, would I be able to use one or two of her minutes that were allocated to her if

1:04:22

it's not on, just say so

1:04:25

we would prefer, not only because we know we are going to be running right, trying to give everybody an opportunity,

1:04:32

right. So crack off and good evening. If you're given that your wife can't attend because she can submit what she was due to say in writing, she will do. Yeah,

1:04:51

right, so

1:04:54

the main thing I want to address this evening is in relation to the site location. So.

1:05:00

And I'm not going to reiterate all the very good points that have been made about how the choice of this site is

1:05:09

incompatible with the national policy statements in year one and three in terms of grid infrastructure, etc, etc. What I want to do is go back to the beginning, because there's been a very effective sort of tactic here of moving the goal posts and presenting everything, a lot of post rascalization. I'm very much reminded of the old story about when you're in Ireland and you ask for directions, and the guy says, Well, if I were you, I wouldn't be starting from here. And that's the situation I think we have, because back in understand it was 2021,

1:05:45

the certain landowners approached our friends at Windle and discussed the site that they had,

1:05:54

and the landowners had said it was a good site, and it was proposed that it would connect at Wisby that proved to be not a viable connection, so the original site did not have a grid connection at this moment in time. The idea of any substations at naveenby or whatever weren't even a twinkle in the eye of national grid.

1:06:19

Now my issue with this is that I can't understand how, for an organization, people based in South Wales suddenly, magically alight in an obscure little rural part of Lincolnshire and find this site if it was done according to planning process of a proper site survey, proper location surveys, etc. Now it may well be that they want to try and use the project specific rationale in mpse in one and I quote, which generally does not require developers to consider the whole of the UK for a specific project, if they can justify the need for the development and the suitability of their chosen site. This site that they chose was not suitable. It was Greenfield land, in contravention to policy, and also it did not have an available grid connection. So the whole start point, I think, is flawed, and at that moment in time they should have withdrawn and gone back down to South Wales. And that's the point about South Wales. The Welsh government is promoting very, very hard the use of industrialized and the development of industrialized solar in South Wales.

1:07:36

According to the Met Office, you know, the sunshine hours in South Wales are typically 1700

1:07:42

a year, compared to 1500 and Lincoln. Also, according to the Met Office, the Welsh Government is actively working to attract and help the development of industrial solar and this is highlighted in their energy generation in Wales 2023

1:07:58

report. It contains comments such as most solar PV capacity is located in South Wales. This is due to the greater availability, availability of grid connections, higher irradiance and more developed supply chain.

1:08:14

It also highlights the Welsh Government's position regarding industrial solar in South Wales, as the Welsh Government sees solar PV, including larger industrial scale projects, as an important part of meeting Wales's renewable energy and decarbonisation goals. So I'm confused, easily done. I know as to how we're supposed to believe that Windle energy and its associates

1:08:38

as a result of a professional planning criteria based survey and location work ended up in this obscure, distant, rural, agricultural part of Lincolnshire when there was all the opportunities in Wales and all the way across the country, from Wales to Lincolnshire, because I do reject the

1:08:58

attempted use of the just over a minute, left, right. Thank you.

1:09:05

Last Oh, very quickly, the size of the location, they're going for 60% more panels than is needed to meet the tariff requirement. The consequence of that is an extra over 200,016

1:09:20

panels that are not needed environmental damage, etc, etc. And it also increases site by about 1000 acres on their own calculations. They say the 60% is going to help the generation in winter. Well, I spent all my life in industry, and I know that 60% of nothing, or virtually nothing, is still 60% of nothing, and taking FOSS Green's own figures and using the nationally published figures of the difference between December and July figures, what will happen is that including the 1.6

1:09:56

level, they're at the estimated oak.

1:10:00

Of electricity from this site in mid December would equate to six one hundredths of 1% of the electricity demand in the country, and that's including their extra 60% so it's totally irrelevant to 60% what this is about is about trying to make project as big and as attractive as possible to sell. So it goes the same way as Mallard pass, and nobody believes that Wendell and the associates are here to implement and develop the project. And I'll just one last one, because I know you want to shut up. Nobody knows who will be dealing with in the future, and that is one of the big, big concerns, because lots of promises are made, but they're being made by people who won't be here to deliver them. I'll call a halt there. We've been a little bit indulgent, please. Thank you. I appreciate it very. Good again. Thank you.

1:10:54

What you want? The notes by sorry,

1:11:00

yeah, deadline three, which offhand I can't recall. It's the 20th of March. 20 of March. Thank you very much. Thank you.

1:11:18

Mr. Davis, Richard Davis,

1:11:22

and are we correct in our understanding you do not wish to be filmed.

1:11:28

Where that came from, all right,

1:11:31

yeah.

1:11:34

Would you like a reminder or a prompt? A prompt, please, if I get there at what point a minute ago? Please, yes, good evening, everybody, and thank you for the opportunity to talk. This is my own view on the situation and somewhat different take on what other people have presented.

1:11:54

And I'm a resident of the area affected by FOSS green energy's proposal. So as we've heard, more of our countryside is being consumed by residential and commercial development is now additionally under attack by what the developers are promoting in our local area, and the These people seem to have no immediate interest or responsibility to the communities who will be affected.

1:12:18

The UK Food Security Outlook of 2050 report warned of a 23%

1:12:24

of current farmland loss by 2050

1:12:29

this loss is due to completing competing land use demands, including housing, solar tree planting to reduce, obviously, the Carbon footprint of the

1:12:40

UK and carbon offsetting. The report also warns, unless agricultural productivity is significantly boosted, these trends could lead to a 32% fall in current domestic food production exposed in the UK to increased import reliance and food price volatility, and that will include increased carbon with the transportation of food. Now what is significant is, to me, having looked around, you know what's going on in the world is that this project is hell bent on using farmland, as we've heard, without actually looking at other areas where the facilities could be sited.

1:13:28

We should protect the food land that we have for food production and actually use it to improve the biodiversity. And so the alternative siting of panels or solar infrastructure is required

1:13:42

roofs are ideal for doubling up on the footprint of our land already used commercial properties, supermarkets, manufacturing units, storage facilities, garage forecourt canopies, for example, just down the road from the FOSS green development is the exwind Be RAF Air Base, where a developer, EQT is currently developing large warehousing facilities. They currently have over 185,000

1:14:11

square foot of sport of floor space, which you could equate to the equivalent of roof space for development, for solar siting,

1:14:19

new build houses and residential development should have solar infrastructure included. As a matter of course, there are significant developments in the Lincoln area. Canick, Bracebridge Heath in Lincoln will see three and a half 1000 homes by 2026

1:14:36

Lincoln's Western growth corridor development will see a further 3.2 1000 homes constructed now assuming an average roof size of 75 square meters. That equates to over half a million square meters available roof space for siting of solar infrastructure, which could be input to the local communities. In effect, benefit local communities. And this is not so.

1:15:00

Digesting, using what everybody seems to be going for, the traditional solar panels, whatever solution is used, it would double up the footprint of the land used.

1:15:12

Other Other things should be considered, as well as reusing existing developed sites. Innovations. For example, as I've said, it seems to be a dash for panels. For example, solar fencing panels have just been introduced into the UK.

1:15:28

Those could be used again in new housing developments.

1:15:32

Solar rail panels are being tested in Switzerland. These are removable rollout panel systems that are sited between the tracks. They are removable to allow maintenance for the tracks and maintenance of the panels. They are investigating and working with Spanish railways, Romanian railways, and railways in South Korea, where it could have been minutes. Thank you. There's also floating voltaic power. The Germans are looking at this where floating bodies can be sited on reservoirs, open cast mines. Again, it's the equivalent of brownfield sites. And solar, floating solar has

1:16:17

more well then it has benefits. No land is required. In actual fact, the the panels or the equipment is used has a higher efficiency due to the cooling effects of the water, where, in effect, a ground mate mounted solar system actually is less efficient in hot conditions. I didn't know that until I did my research today, maintenance of water based systems lower lower dust levels, less cleaning compared to land based and its scalability is high in urban areas. It doesn't affect rural areas so much. I would

suggest that the plan is rejected and alternatives should be viewed. That's your five minutes. Thank you for your time. You

1:17:34

Samantha Davis, please,

1:17:48

would you like a minute? A minute will be fine. Thank you. Thank you when you're ready. Okay, I'm a resident of South Lincoln, and short of going away to study with some of that time abroad and two years of my working life away. I've always lived in this area

1:18:04

to avoid duplication of other arguments. I turn instead of policy, and whilst the Secretary of State has the final say in this matter, it's worth making reference to the plan drawing up, drawn up for Lincolnshire by people invested in the interests of Lincolnshire,

1:18:21

I turn into the central Lincolnshire local plan adopted in April 2023

1:18:25

and it talks about, on page 11, the natural and historic environments and their assets will be conserved and enhanced with any new developments taken into account the surroundings of the area in which it will be situated. I request that the inspectorate takes into the account the cumulative impact of all of these developments, not only fostering but the other applications as well.

1:18:48

It says in the local plan that the enhancement of the natural environment and the ecosystem services it provides should create mutual benefits for the nature, people and economy. So combined cumulative effect of 10,000 acres of prime farmland taken up by glass and potentially 1300 shipping container size batteries are not really of mutual benefit. PAGE 11 mentions the objectives in still talking about the local plan. Number Four talks about the biodiversity and the green infrastructure to conserve and enhance biodiversity and geo diversity. Number five, the objective is landscape and townscape, to protect and enhance the rich diversity of the character and appearance of central Lincoln's landscape and townscape. And number nine, talks about protecting and enhancing soil and land resources and quality in central Lincolnshire. Do 10,000 acres of glass and 1300 shipping container size batteries of lithium help achieve these objectives. Policy s1 talks about spatial strategy and settlement hierarchy, the rural nature of Lincolnshire and the significant role that agriculture plays in the economy of this area, our 10,000 acres of glass and 30.

1:20:00

100 shipping container size, batteries of lithium, properly managing the landscape policy s5 talks about development five in the countryside and talks about a scale appropriate to its location. So 10,000 acres of glass and 1300 containers, if you tessellated Lincoln cathedral. That will be 8000 Lincoln cathedrals. Policy s 14 talks about renewable energy and any developments should have acceptable impacts, considering the scale, siting and design and consequent impacts on landscape, character and visual amenity. Policy s 43 talks about sustainable road rural tourism and respecting the intrinsic, natural and built qualities of the area, 10,000 acres of glass, that's almost 5000 6000 football pitches, is that providing a thriving environment policy. S 53 talks about design and amenity, mentioning specifically the nature ensuring that any development can be satisfactorily assimilated into the surrounding area, so 10,000 acres of glass and those batteries can't be satisfactorily assimilated. And whilst I cannot find

any substantiated research, the Bingham Canyon mine near Salt Lake City has 19 acres that can be seen from space, the greenhouses in Elmira, because of their scale, contrast and reflectivity, can certainly be seen from space. Imagine if we were famous for that, and not our castle, cathedral, wartime heritage and agricultural routes, 10,000 acres of glass cannot be appropriately assimilated.

1:21:43

And if that isn't enough, the Paris accord and international agreement, this agreement highlights the need to strengthen global responses to climate change whilst ensuring food production is not threatened. Compliance systems must provide nutrition left food security is explicitly mentioned policy 67 in our own plan talks about the best and most versatile agricultural land. We have four and a half 1000 larger farms in Lincolnshire, and we're recognized as being efficient producers. We contribute 3.4 billion to the economy, 75,000 jobs, farmers, agronomists, engineers, vets, machinists, technicians, scientists, seed producers, food production, ecologists, teams and nature reserves.

1:22:30

The rural policy group cites us as being as arguably the most significant agricultural region in the UK. We are the nation's food basket, 30% of veg, 20% of beet and 10% of wheat, that is 20, 30 billion loaves of bread produced on 10,000 acres. This city side development simply subsumes 10,000 acres of the best farmland in the world. Use the two and a half square kilometers of commercial roofs in addition to the private roofs, the car parks, the ports, the public buildings, the railway tracks, the walls, the central reserves, the factories, the new builds and the Brownfield sites, I respectfully request that you decline This application. Thank you. That's your five minutes. Thank you.

1:23:26

Philip heard, please.

1:23:36

Thanks, sir. I don't need a prompt. I deleted one or two bits so I'm not repeating what's been said earlier. Philip, old resident of Leavenby,

1:23:45

the areas I would like to cover are output, efficiency, permanent sealing of land, funding for decommissioning and a final piece statement regarding best safety.

1:23:56

This proposed development is based on a claim of exaggerated energy production. Before we go any further, I will briefly explain what is meant by load factor. For anybody not familiar with the term, it is the ratio of actual, or in this case, predicted output as a percentage of the maximum theoretical output. If the plant operated at full capacity, 24 hours per day, 365 days per year.

1:24:21

In short, it is the efficiency of the energy production

1:24:25

perfect would be 100%

1:24:27

a small modular nuclear reactor is 95%

1:24:32

solar is currently based on government data below 10%

1:24:37

yet the applicant's data is predicting the load factor to be significantly higher between 15 and 20%

1:24:44

how is this justified?

1:24:47

Moreover, the applicant's predicted total generation figure of about 19 and a half million megawatt hours across 60 years is based on an unsubstantiated load factor of 15.4%

1:25:00

If 10% a far more realistic figure were to be applied, the predicted output would be about 12 point 6 million megawatt hours. This would result in a carbon intensity figure across 60 years of 57 grams of CO two equivalent per kilowatt hour. This is way above the government's 2030, planned maximum target, 50,

1:25:23

it is noted to the XA is asked to execute two for examples, whether where other solar NS have treated land underneath best substations etc, as permanently sealed.

1:25:35

Some IPS, IPS have submitted details of nsips, where the Secretary of State determined that such areas were considered permanently sealed.

1:25:44

Indeed, the applicant states that, apart from the planned orchard, no land, in fact, will be permanently sealed. Yet the same applicant in promoting Mallard pass stated that the areas of the substation access tracks and solar stations on the site will be treated as permanently sealed. Over

1:26:02

on what basis is the applicant treating this proposed development differently?

1:26:08

The applicant initially stated all aspects of the proposed development were covered in the funding statement. Then

1:26:15

the applicant admitted that decommissioning was not covered.

1:26:20

Then the applicant updated the funding statement to include the word decommissioning without repeat, without any uplift in the total three 40 million pound figure. What is the explanation for this?

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Equally importantly, the applicant has previously stated, and I quote, The applicant is committed to setting aside money for decommissioning the proposed development.

1:26:44

This statement refers to the applicant. Refers to the applicant, not any subsequent developer or Undertaker.

1:26:50

Where is the evidence of this commitment if, sadly, this proposed development is approved, the applicant is responsible. The very least the applicant should do is take responsibility for clearing up the mess, an adequate funding mechanism should be secured through the DCO.

1:27:09

Finally, the applicant states that two best fires to date in the UK would not have occurred if the principles and commitments in the framework Battery Management safety plan had been applied, would not have occurred. These words imply 100%

1:27:25

safety for the proposed press. Not even the nuclear industry makes such claims.

1:27:33

Thanks, sir.

1:27:44

Andrew Keeling,

1:27:53

can you? Can you hear me? We can hear and see you. Okay? I don't only need a couple of minutes.

1:28:01

And thank you, Mr. Gold,

1:28:03

yeah, I just really, just wanted to ask a question of the examining authority, is that appropriate in this forum?

1:28:11

No, you're, you're addressing us

1:28:15

because of the nature of this. This being an open floor here. What? What is the nature I can I can rephrase it. I can rephrase it as a comment. But I'm just concerned. I don't want to be concerned. I don't want it to come across as a criticism, but I can rephrase it as a comment. Then, yeah, yeah, okay, so I understand that the examining authority completed the accompanied site inspection visit yesterday, and I hope that that was an informative day for you. At deadline two, I submitted a number of suggestions in document, R, E, p2, 065,

1:28:48

for locations to be included in the itinerary for the accompanied site inspection that would give the examining authority a clear understanding of the impact of the FOSS green energy scheme on the village of buddingham and the footpaths and country walks around the village and between bazzingham and Auburn that many local people and visitors to the area currently enjoy, I have to say that I was disappointed that none of my suggestions were incorporated into the final itinerary for The accompanied site inspection. Even more so, having now seen the report circulated on Monday of your

unaccompanied site inspection on the 18th and 19th of December, which also did not include any of my suggested locations in your itinerary for that that visit. So I have to say, I am concerned that

1:29:43

without further site inspection visits, and you seem to be alluding when you responded to Nick Lyons earlier, that you may be doing further site visits that I do hope that those further site visits will include locations around basingham and between basingham and Auburn, to give you that full understanding.

1:30:00

Explain of the impact of the FOSS green energy scheme on the village and on the public rights of way that so many people in the local area enjoy and come to use. Thank you.

1:30:14

Mr. Keeling, I can assure you that we have not finished our inspections of the area.

1:30:20

We did review your suggested locations, but felt we could do those from public vantage points. Hence the reason why they weren't included on the accompanied visit yesterday. But yeah, we will be making at least one further set of inspections, if perhaps not more than that.

1:30:38

Thank you for that ratio. Thank you.

1:30:52

Do we have James Kirby?

1:31:15

Mr. Covey, would you like a prompt at a minute or minute half to go? Sorry, 30 seconds to go, minutes. Thank you. If you'd like to Jen, thank you. Thank you. James Kirby, local residents.

1:31:30

I am an energy manager for a multi Academy trust in the Lincoln area. I'm speaking in a personal capacity, not on behalf of the multi Academy trust, but I am drawing on my experiences of that.

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I feel as if maybe I should get a positive comment in for you.

1:31:55

And when these projects started popping up, I initially supported them,

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quickly, unfortunately, changed my mind when I saw the effects on the landscape.

1:32:06

This proposal, as has already been highlighted, is one of the number of solar led projects being developed in this area, and it'll basically mean glass all the way from Thorpe on the Hill through to

1:32:20

cave. And this proposal has already been said, cannot, in my opinion, be considered in isolation. So what I'd like to do is just put some meat on the on the bones. I've attended all the

1:32:32

meetings that you've, the local meetings that you've that you've put on

1:32:39

from that information, the off screen. I proposal seeks to generate about 400 megawatts. Units are not really important. I think what I'm going to do is call that the

1:32:53

FOSS green output, annual output. The

1:33:00

multicametrust for which I work has installed significant number of solar panels on its own roofs. Appointment already been made and batteries, which now generates 1.6 gigawatts, which in force screened output terms, is four times the size

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it

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also supplies its own sites from that 1.6 gigawatts at 1.2 so that's three times the size of the FOS green output,

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and the remainder about 400 megawatts, the same as The FOSS green output is exported back to the grid,

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for which we get paid a wholesale electric price, which I suspect is significantly less than the price the applicant will get. And that's why we don't see any local benefit. In my opinion,

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if you look at the results for the multi Academy Trust, the electrical consumption has significantly reduced, which has lured bills for our Lincolnshire schools, thereby putting money directly back into the local schools Budget, directly benefiting local school children

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since 2018

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the multi Academy Trust's camera footprint has halved. In my opinion. These are real local benefits.

1:34:31

I think

1:34:33

the all the boxes are ticked. There's still more work to do, as always, with these with these projects.

1:34:42

So I would ask an urge for rejection of the application in its current format, in its current format. Thank you. Thank

1:34:55  
you. Mr. Kirby.

1:35:00  
Mr. Kirby's,

1:35:15  
which would you like a prompt at a minute?

1:35:20  
Might be useful, please. Yes. Thank you.

1:35:24  
You're coming towards the end of quite a long line tonight, so hopefully you'll you'll avoid repetition. I know I've got loads of notes I've got to take out, and so bear with if I do go over, I'll try not to, but I think I'll be less Gordon cobish, resident of Thorpe on the hill, with a few general observations, which I would ask for clarification at future events. Please from the applicant, through you.

1:35:55  
We've already discussed temporarily, temporary. It's cropped up again tonight. I would just point out that whatever definition you use, the applicant said at the January hearing that infrastructure in the ground below naught point nine meters will not be removed at the end. This surely means that that land won't be able to be used again anyway. So whatever is, is it ever going to get cultivated again in 60 years time?

1:36:33  
The conflict of land use around clay lane and stocking wood area in Thorpe on the Hill was touched upon by my parish council chairman,

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where much of the land is designated for solar panels

1:36:49  
and currently is used for intensive crop growing to provide the digestate For the digester at South highcomb. This is obviously a significant of insignificant, significant importance as to warrant the avoidance of it by the realignment of the route of Lincoln's Eastern bypass. I did raise it again before in January.

1:37:16  
There's also the digestate lagoon, which you saw on your trip yesterday,

1:37:23  
the

1:37:24

digester also runs a similar scheme at Thirlby, with the same digest digestate lagoon and cropping On a heavy scale with the land designated by FOS green for landscaping and habitat creation, creation. So I would like please

1:37:51

for this to be examined. What's going to happen there? How will the digester continue? Or will it or will FOS green energy simply replace one carbon neutral electricity production system with another

1:38:05

similarly, I raised firefighting issues, which has been well covered,

1:38:11

but what I would like to raise, of course, which has, I don't think, been mentioned,

1:38:17

pollution of the land and and so on and so forth, possibly even into the water courses. If there was a fire, what about the pollution that will be expelled into the air, which we would all have to breathe?

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You get a large industrial fire, and people are told to stay indoors and close their windows. So that's that's another issue.

1:38:41

Do?

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The the meat, the hearings in January,

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FOS green energy said that when in answer to a question,

1:38:57

what measures are in place to stop the spread of fire to adjacent containers and batteries, and they said there were measures in place. What are these measures? Please? Can we find out? I appear can't find anything.

1:39:13

So that's something that really needs to be addressed.

1:39:19

The next issue, the World Health Organization recommends that solar schemes should be two miles from residential properties. This certainly isn't the case here, and certainly it doesn't comply with this. So far as Thorpe on the Hill is concerned, where the

1:39:35

solar panels are next to the village when there is environmental land further away. Could that not have been swapped over? I could go on. What about the effect of this scheme on property values? For example,

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overall, the scheme will very much affect residents and users, enjoyment and quality of life for the surrounding countryside, as has been alluded in published.

1:40:00

The planning policies that have been mentioned, it is my view that the scheme will be detrimental to the landscape, which has some significant features which belie the often held general about 30 seconds left, right, that Lincolnshire is flat and of no importance. After all, Lincoln edge is the northern end of the Cotswolds. So finally, I would like it borne in mind that this application is one of around 15 such schemes. I've really lost count within the 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.

1:40:55

Thank you.

1:41:01

Just before we turn to Mr. Carl

1:41:09

Conan, I think Dame Andrea Jenkins wants to raise a point, if you like. Yes, hello, just checking you haven't forgotten about us, because I got told at the beginning it was alphabetical order. We've moved on to K's, and I'm a J, yeah, but we're doing it in the order of interested parties and then parties, okay, as long as you haven't forgotten, we haven't forgotten. Thank you.

1:41:35

Carl Conan, do

1:41:43

Thank you, sir. Good evening. Carl curd and Thorpe on the hill. I will briefly summarize some some points I made at the beginning of the year, and just on the scale of this proposal, would you like a minute or 30 seconds? 30 seconds? I think so. Thank you.

1:41:59

This particular proposed development will affect each of the nine parishes within the area. I won't go through them for brevity, but of the nine parishes, Thorpe on the hill, and this is only the land area of Thorpe on the hill, bearing in mind, we've got a lot of water features, will affect 47% of the land area of the parish, bassingham, 27%

1:42:22

Auburn and Haddington, 26 Thirlby, 20.5

1:42:27

those are the most significant. There are other figures available now. In actual fact, given the fact that the FOSS green divided it down between solar panels and the cable corridor, in fact, we find that Thorpe on the Hill parish will have 75%

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of the solar panels of associated areas within our parish boundary.

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At a recent community liaison meeting with the applicants team, they stated the expected lifetime of panels would be 30 to 40 years, Councilor Overton has already alluded to this, so I won't go further. They'll obviously point out this means, in the lifetime of this temporary 60 years, there's two solar developments. I'd also like to highlight the fact that there seems to be a strange sort of lack of regard and awareness on the part of the applicant, of how our communities feel about these proposals, and some of the way, in fact, they try to communicate to us. And I note that the examining authority and your written questions Request for Information issued on the 27th of February, which asked to identify the evidential basis underpinning the following statement, and I quote,

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some will perceive them, solar panels as unwanted, industrial, urbanizing. Others will see them as important, sensitive, rural, even agricultural. Solar farms were first introduced to our landscape, they will have seemed alien. However, the prevalence of these features within the countryside, a function of nearly 20 years of construction and operation, requires recognition that solar farms have become a more commonplace landscape character type, much in the same way we acknowledge golf courses or greenhouses polytunnels. Furthermore, it has been recognized that beyond a certain distance, solar arrays lose definition and assume a washed over appearance. As a result, solar farms are perceived as blocks of faded color within an established agricultural landscape. This is taken from para 3.3 of appendix 7d of the ES environmental statement. Be very interesting to read the applicant's response to your question and being able to identify the evidential basis underpinning the above quotation as requested.

1:45:00

By you both, both North Coast Stephen and Lincoln County Council have been asked by yourselves, if they agree with the views expressed, I would hesitate to

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say I can't believe they would

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all in all, sir, madam, Solar on roofs, not on farmland. Thank you.

1:45:41

Sylvia Lyons,

1:45:55

would you like a mine? Will be very, very brief, so don't worry about it. Most of what's been said, I wanted to say, has all been said, and mine's very brief. Anyway, I've got a few points, but they're not in any definite order. The first is concern about the effect on house prices, with what's going to be happening if it goes ahead, and whether we're going to receive any compensation.

1:46:21

The secondly is, second one is my concern ethically, is that we're importing the solar panels from China, which we know has got a very bad record, into slave labor, also the pollution that's caused in making the solar panels, because they're using coal to do that, and the cost and the pollution in transporting it. Secondly, why don't we look at other European countries, for example, France, who have just brought in a law to state that all new properties automatically have solar panels on their roofs. And

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why is the whole process ignoring rooftop solar panels. I'm concerned about the negative effects of the construction to the soil and the disruption through our very small village roads when it all goes ahead, because they struggle at the moment, just with lorries coming through.

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And also, when are we ever going to have access to local country for how many years it will be that we get that? That's it.

1:47:37

Thank you.

1:47:44

We have Tony Magri, I don't think he's no

1:47:49

Susan Makinson Sanders, so

1:48:03

if you could bear with me, because much of what I was going to say has already been picked up by other speakers, and I don't want to repeat just a couple of things, if I can go through in order. I live in Colby parish, which is affected by this development in that the grid corridor to connect the development to the proposed nav and be substation passes through the parish of Colby. Colby's neighborhood plan

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sets out that, amongst other things, development will need to demonstrate that it can be carried out with result, without resulting in an unacceptable impact on the setting of the village within the wider landscape and the landscape character within the parish,

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it has been very difficult to ascertain precisely What physical features will appear on the landscape in the

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grid corridor, and

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details of what will happen on the commissioning are also very difficult to ascertain

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on the landscape issue. Much has already been said, but what I would raise is the alternative sites that have been considered. Where is the evidence for that? What about the decommissioned

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power station sites along the Trent which, by definition, already have connections to the grid without the requirement for new connections.

1:49:44

The loss of agricultural lands has been mentioned at length. Food security is a major issue, particularly given the present circumstances the world finds itself in. Should not more have.

1:50:00

Importance be given to that ultimately, we can live without power, but we cannot live without food.

1:50:08

Going back to the grid corridor. This passes through the parish of Colby, through which the Viking way also runs. Not only would the grid corridor bisect that national long distance footpath, but would also bisect a footpath running between Colby and Somerton Castle, which is a grade one listed building.

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I would ask that the inspectors consider the impact of that on summerton Castle, which has stood there for a lot longer than this, so called temporary

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development. Development will

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the only other aspect I would mention. There has been talk of the impact on

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members of the public's well being, nobody has mentioned the impact on the well being of the nature. In our area, we have a lot of wildlife, particularly Wisby nature park. How are the birds going to cope with acres and acres of glass when they mistake that for water?

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Anything is also going to impact our deer and our other wildlife, and I think it is important that this should be given consideration in determining this application. I'm

1:51:33

not going to say any more because it's already been said, but thank you for hearing me. I

1:51:43

uh. Mariana Overton, do you have anything additional that you want to say over and above what you said? Thank you. There are actually just a couple of small points. One is about the soil. And I know these are not general ones, but these are perhaps more specific. I have a report from Professor Peter Thompson of Oxford University, and he's researched the 70 papers, and he's pointed out there'd been many claims that land occupied by solar panels can be restored to agriculture use at the end of life. This is highly dubious and will be very expensive.

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So his point is that, firstly, the installation creates the pile driving of steel supports down to depth of he suggests four meters results in serious damage, soil compaction, disruption of land drains. And then, once installed, it also continues to affect the research that's shown is that the damage is likely to be permanent to the Microbiology in the soil

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in the 100 or so studies they were that were applicable, most of them, well, almost all of them are in dry and arid regions that exist in other parts of the world,

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and some of the scrub regions in the deserts of China. So these significant The only significant one that's relevant, perhaps, because obviously you can improve the soil if you've got a desert and you put some shade over it, that's not the same as we're talking about here. There are no studies of the changing good agricultural land covered by solar panels. At the end of 10 years,

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one in Italy has been gone through. And that demonstrates that the water holding capacity is severely reduced, significantly reduced. The

1:53:38

organic content significantly reduced, and the microbiology reduced massively, as well, creating poor effectively creating poor soil.

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And the other point I was just going to raise also was about the cable corridor that goes up the cliff edge. Not sure if it's been very clear to the inspector, or to all of us, but there is a risk, of course, also, that we have a an aviation fuel line there, and putting a high voltage in the vicinity of those of such a corridor, Such a aviation fuel pipe, means that the outer cable corrodes and creates an increased risk of damage, which could then result a in explosion or leakage, but also would impact on the supply to areas such as even Heathrow. So thank you. Thank

1:54:43

Thank you.

1:54:45

Right then, turning to

1:54:48

the non interested parties, starting with Dame Andrea Jenkins,

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are you able to give an indication of how long you think you will need a.

1:55:00

I'm all I've I've cut out a lot of the other stuff I was going to say. So, but if you can give me the one minute warning, so I'll try and keep it as brief as I can.

1:55:10

Yeah. I mean, you've been potentially allocated up to 10 minutes. Do you think you're going to need 10 or

1:55:16

Well, hopefully not. But can I just see yeah, I've obviously changed my speech and cut out a lot of it, so that will be repeating everything, yeah, and you'll have the opportunity to submit your speech in full. Anyway, yeah, of course. Okay, lovely. So minute, it'd be great. Thank you. So I'm not here to really talk about the abstract energy targets. I'm here to be the voice of the people of Lincolnshire, who feel that their heritage has been sold out from under their feet. Now we are told that it's a farm,

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but let's call it what it really is. It's a 2400

1:55:54

acre monstrosity that swallows up our farmland and our countryside now, as we've already established, Lincolnshire feeds our nation. It is a backbone of British food security. Yet this proposal, it pillages our prime productive soil.

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Now, as I said, I will not repeat all the points that's already been mentioned. You've you've got that in abundance, but I will focus on two areas, so I should only be probably three or four minutes for this

1:56:29

important one is the soil and agricultural land. Now this is perhaps the most serious concern, is a loss of agricultural land, as we've already established. Lincolnshire is the most important food producing county in the United Kingdom, and our farmland feeds millions of people. Removing 1000s of acres from food production for 60 years raises serious questions about food security and national priorities. Now, developers say that land could return to farming afterwards, but the truth is, we do not yet know the long term effects of covering land with solar panels for this length of time now, soil health, drainage and productivity could all be affected, and once this farmland is removed from production for decades, It effectively is gone for a generation.

1:57:21

Now, an important point that one of your previous speakers just briefly touched on is the geopolitics now. We are living in an increasingly unstable world where the conflict in the Middle East and beyond now, therefore the global supply chain, not only for energy, oil, gas, but for food security, it's not a luxury, it's a pillar of our national defense. Now we cannot trade our ability to feed ourselves for an inefficient energy project, and let's face it, it is inefficient. Now

1:57:57

the the energy project cannot export a third of our power, it that it generates to the national grid and that we feed the nation so we haven't got the same output. Now every every acre of Lincolnshire, grade one and two, soil that we cover in glass and steel is an acre that no longer contributes to our British self sufficiency. Now, the dependence on volatile foreign markets for our basic needs is a strategic error, and surely it's it's the job of any government to protect its residents and its people. Now we will regret it for the 60 year lifespan of this project, if this goes ahead, and I'd like to urge Yes, this is just one small piece. We are looking at 40,000 acres of solar farm across Lincolnshire. This is excessive for one county. Now, this isn't nimbyism. This isn't not in my backyard. It's actually looking at the expense of our nation. Now do not, not mistake our quiet countryside for being a dumping ground. We have a duty to protect the landscape for the next 60 years, not just for this fiscal quarter, and not just for the bank balance of the developers. We cannot undo the industrialization of this land once it has been built upon in this way. Now, growth is necessary because it is, I'm an advocate for that, but it should not be at the expense of our identity and our food security. So let's choose a future that powers our homes but it doesn't destroy the very fields that feeds us now in this unstable world of geopolitics, it's time to put the people of Lincolnshire and the people of Britain first. I've got nothing else to say but thank you. Thank.

2:00:00

Great. Thank you.

2:00:09

Alistair King, please,

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yes. Press the button. I've got it.

2:00:25

I've got it. I think Good evening. Mr. King, any idea how long you think you might take with Are you going to need up to five minutes or a little bit less? I'll try a little bit less, but maybe up to five. And what point would you like a prompt? 30 seconds, please? 30 Yeah, so Alistair King, local residents.

2:00:45

The point I want to make is that in September 2023, FOSS green produced a brochure for all the local residents, and in large prints, on page two of the brochure, he stated 350 megawatts of power and would would power 110,000

2:01:04

homes. It repeated that the following year with another brochure, same information, even bigger, actually, I forgot to say on that first brochure on page four as well, it even larger print. It says 350, megawatts and 110,000

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homes. So I'd like to make everybody aware that those figures are wholly misleading, wholly misleading. The figure of 350 megawatts is a power figure, not an energy production figure, and it actually means nothing at all, unless you state what the capacity factor is. And as we heard before, that's about Thompson or something at 53 degrees of latitude. That is why solar panels of this latitude are a very bad idea and a very, very poor use of land. The

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110,000 homes is also highly misleading, and that is because

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the solar farm will never and cannot Power 110,000

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homes, and that is because of the grid balancing required, and that is because of the supply coming only when the sun shines, so nothing at night time. So it's got 24 hour cycle. It's also got a seasonal cycle this fall up much less in the winter. We know all that, and that's what leads to the Thompson capacity factor. But to say that will therefore power 110,000 homes is highly misleading. It requires grid balancing that the applicants own batteries can't possibly cover, and that's why in the recent auction round for the solar farms, the solar farms are promised about 65 pounds per megawatt hour. That's that's guaranteed for them for a good number of years. But in addition to that, that figure doesn't, doesn't include the additional 35 pounds per megawatt hour, which is required for grid balancing. We get those costs through on our bills, but it's not shown in any way, and the applicant doesn't have to pay it. So that grid balancing will require, no doubt about this. It will require the continued use of gas turbines into the future to make sure we don't have blackouts on the darkest days of winter. So we still have to have those gas turbines. And the only the other trouble is, although we're quoted a low price, or is said that there's a low price for solar energy, that low price we're always quoted simply doesn't take into account that grid, grid balancing, and when it's compared, which could make it say 100 100 pounds per gigawatt megawatt. But if you take into account the cost, if you try and compare that with the cost of gas turbines,

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there's a very unfair comparison, because the government then uses and other industry figures, then use a capacity factor of perhaps 20% or even less for gas turbines to compare with the solar now, gas turbines can work at 90 plus percent, but perhaps 95% I'm not sure, capacity factor, and if they were compared, if solar was compared to gas at that level, It would look very bad indeed. But the capacity, the gas capacity factor used, is only used because solar is there. So it's a very unfair comparison. What I'd like to say really is that the applicant will say that these figures that they've produced, the 3550 megawatts and 110,000 homes, are kind of industry ways of stating things. Well, yes, they are the way of just stating megawatts. In the past, when we had power stations that had capacity factors of 90 plus percent, it kind of made sense, but it's meaningless when you've got something with a capacity factor of

2:04:56

10%

2:04:57

but they still do it. They still.

2:05:00

Solar, solar, in the solar industry, still quotes these and we need to bring it to an end somehow. And I can't think of any other way to bring this misleading message to an end, other than the planning inspector saying, right, that was wrong. I mean, how many people were put off coming here tonight or even objecting at all because they've got this 30 seconds to go right because they've had a misleading message of how good this stuff is when it really isn't that good at all.

2:05:28

And that's it really, other than I will just leave you well. One other thing is, if you can't, if you can't reject the application because of that original, original misleading information, perhaps at least we know that they intend to mislead and have done on a number of documents as well. So let's take that into a fact. They've got form here. The other, other thing I just want to finish on is the fun fact that for solar,

2:05:55

so to power 100,000 homes with solar will take about 17,000 acres if you're doing it with modular nuclear the same 100,000 homes could be

2:06:08

satisfied by four acres. So it's poor, as opposed to 17,000 acres, a horrible use of land. Thank you.

2:06:26

Charles Overton,

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any

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indication of how long you think are going to take? Are you going to need your five facials? I shall speak for a minute. I have been absolutely overwhelmed by the fantastic research that the people behind me have put into their presentations this evening. The expertise is mind boggling, and I would only suggest that perhaps they could have a second career of doing the tour of these of these hearings.

2:07:02

Most of the points I made, I made the scene sorry this afternoon, when I tried to make the point that using

2:07:10

the totally misleading percentages, often repeated by government, that only a tiny percentage of land will actually affect the agricultural community, I emphasize the fact that the

2:07:24

perception and the damage spread far and wide. As soon as you put up something that is

2:07:31

of great landscape impact, you don't just impact the area on which it stands. You impact the whole landscape, the whole environment in which it sits. That's the point I got over. Then just one final, small point that I don't think has been fully

2:07:49

pointed to. If this

2:07:53

line through to navenby Substation, if it ever gets permission, is ever built, it will not be a trench in the ground. It will be a quarrying operation to cut through the limestone cliff edge, which will have a very considerable impact. And just to give you some idea, people often alluded to how long the impact will be from these solar industrial estates. I was raised at RAF wellingare, and you will be aware of the fact there are something like 70 RAF stations built across Lincolnshire from 1938 onwards. I can assure you that virtually none of those can ever be fully reverted to agriculture. If you fly over them and use some LIDAR technique, you will see that the productivity of the soil, particularly on a growing crop, it never returns. It may, of course, be very useful for turning into a nature reserve, and I would certainly applaud that. But having said that, why not create the nature reserve before you create the mess? Thank you very much.

2:08:56

Thank you. And do we have Helen Powell, who's the last name on our list?

2:09:06

Thank you.

2:09:12

We, we have, I think, gone past the time that theoretically was available for the venue. Is there anybody else

2:09:22

that hasn't spoken. We did find a case team get an indication that Mr. Daniels, you perhaps wanted to speak. But do you want to defer to your session at the compulsory acquisition here? Thank you.

2:09:42

Do? Did the applicant want to make any having heard what's been said this evening, any comments on anything that you've heard? Or are you going to defer to writing? So Reuben Taylor for the applicant, so we're going to defer to writing, and we should say we won't necessarily be responding to any.

2:10:00

Everything that's been said, we may pick and choose certain points. We may cross refer to answers that are already being provided. We would certainly appreciate if, if there is cross referencing to things that have been said before.

2:10:15

That therefore does bring us to the close of this hearing. I'd remind all participants that if you can, if you've got written notes that you've been relying on, if you could submit those at deadline three that would assist. Thank you.

2:10:35

And therefore, just like to thank you for your participation late this afternoon, early evening. Thank you very much. This hearing is therefore closed. You.