

To whom it may concern

These are my notes as requested following the meeting on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March re the Fosse Energy proposal. These are my full notes, as I was compelled to deliver an abridged version at the event. I had no indication of the time limit prior to the meeting and it was a pity that some speeches, including my own, had to be cut short due to the duration of the room hire. The time of 5pm would also have been a challenge to young families on the school / club run or employees without a sympathetic employer.

I am 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 have always lived in this area.

I turn to **policy** in my **counter argument** re the solar Fosse Green proposal, and whilst the Sec of State has the final say in this matter, it's worth making reference to the plan drawn up for Lincolnshire by people invested in the interests of Lincolnshire. I do not believe that this proposal can be viewed independently and instead should be looked at as a cumulative impact upon Lincolnshire.

That's the **Central Lincolnshire Local Plan** – adopted April 2023

- Pg 11 The natural and historic environments, and their assets, will be conserved and enhanced, with new development taking into account the surroundings of the area in which it would be situated. Enhancement of the natural environment and the ecosystem services it provides will create mutual benefits for the nature, people and economy..

*10 000 acres of prime farmland taken up by glass and 1300 shipping container sized batteries are of mutual benefit? Really?*

- Pg 11 Objectives (of the plan)
  - 4. Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure: To conserve and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity..
  - 5. Landscape and Townscape: To protect and enhance the rich diversity of the character and appearance of Central Lincolnshire's landscape and townscape, maintaining and strengthening local distinctiveness and sense of place.
  - 9. Natural Resources – Land Use and Soils: To protect and enhance soil and land resources and quality in Central Lincolnshire

*Do 10 000 acres of glass and 1300 shipping container sized batteries of lithium help achieve those objectives?*

### **Policy S1: The Spatial Strategy and Settlement Hierarchy**

2.5.3. More widely, the rural nature of Central Lincolnshire and the significant role that agriculture plays in the economy of this area means that agricultural land and other rural land-based activities have a notable presence in the landscape and forms an attractive backdrop to the various settlements. Development needed to directly support such uses is important to foster a successful rural economy, but it can also have an impact on the landscape if not properly managed.

*Are 10 000 acres of glass and 1300 shipping container sized batteries of lithium properly managing the landscape?*

### **Policy S5: Development in the Countryside**

Part F: Agricultural diversification

..b) Of a scale appropriate to its location;..

*So, 10 000 acres of glass and 1300 containers of lithium – appropriate? That’s 8000 Lincoln cathedrals.*

**Policy S14: Renewable Energy**

The impacts are acceptable having considered the scale, siting and design, and the consequent impacts on landscape character; visual amenity; biodiversity; geodiversity; flood risk; townscape; heritage assets, their settings and the historic landscape;

*So, 10 000 acres of glass and 1300 containers of lithium – acceptable?*

**Policy S43: Sustainable Rural Tourism**

... c) respect the intrinsic natural and built environmental qualities of the area; d) are appropriate for the character of the local environment in scale, nature and appearance;

Theme 3 – Promote thriving environments a) Develop opportunities to both protect and enhance the built and natural environment. ... c) Provide sustainable access to Lincolnshire’s wonderful environment and heritage.

*So, 10 000 acres of glass and 1300 containers of lithium – providing thriving environments? Really? That’s 5000/6000 football pitches.*

**Policy S53: Design and Amenity**

5. Nature ... ensure that the development can be satisfactorily assimilated into the surrounding area,

11. Natural Environment (*the whole proposed site contravenes this*)

- improving quality of place;
- supporting people’s physical and mental health and social wellbeing;
- sustaining economic growth, attracting investment, promoting employment and skills improvement;
- protecting and enhancing existing habitats and providing opportunities to create a more joined-up and resilient ecological network;
- providing opportunities for local, sustainable food production; and
- conserving and enhancing landscape character, local distinctiveness and the setting of heritage assets

*So, 10 000 acres of glass and 1300 containers of lithium - satisfactorily assimilated? Whilst I cannot find any substantiated research, the Bingham Canyon Mine nr Salt Lake, 1900 acres can be seen from space. The greenhouses in Almeria because of their scale, contrast, and reflectivity can certainly be seen. Imagine if we were famous for that and not our castle, cathedral, war time heritage and agricultural roots. 10 000 acres of glass and 1300 containers of lithium – appropriate and assimilated?*

**Policy S59: Green and Blue Infrastructure Network**

a) incorporate a range of types and sizes of green and blue spaces, green routes and environmental features that are appropriate to the development ... b) deliver biodiversity net gain and support ecosystem services; c) respond to landscape/townscape and historic

character; d) support climate change adaptation and resilience including through use of appropriate habitats and species;

### **11.1. Biodiversity and Geodiversity**

11.1.3. The Central Lincolnshire authorities have a duty to protect and enhance biodiversity.

*So, 10 000 acres of glass—supporting bio diversity and ecology? Regenerative farming can capture 8000-10000 tons of carbon, managed grasslands three times that amount, trees significantly more. So, replacing that with 10 000 acres of glass and 1300 containers of lithium – enhancement?*

#### **Policy S63: Green Wedges**

Development proposals within a Green Wedge will be expected to have regard to:

c) the need to retain the open and undeveloped character of the Green Wedge... historic environment character ...; d) the maintenance and enhancement of the network of footpaths, cycleways and bridleways, and their links to the countryside.

If that isn't enough

#### **The Paris Accord – an international agreement**

The agreement highlights the need to strengthen global responses to climate change **whilst ensuring food production is not threatened**. Compliant systems must provide nutritious food. Food systems have been recognised as central to climate mitigation strategies. Food security is explicitly mentioned in response to climate change and the importance of safeguarding it is mentioned in the preamble.

#### **Policy S67: Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land**

Proposals should protect the best and most versatile agricultural land so as to protect opportunities for food production and the continuance of the agricultural economy.

We have 4500 larger farms in Lincolnshire and we are recognised as being efficient producers. We lead in agritech, contribute £3.4 billion to the economy and employ 75 000 in the agricultural sector – farmers, agronomists, engineers, vets, machinists, technicians, scientists, seed producers, food production, ecologists, teams at nature reserves.

As a nation we can do more for our farmers, the best in the world, with a quality product and the cynic in me is trying not to see the connection between imposing a farmers' tax and a possible financial solar powered solution, yet covering their land is not any sort of solution. **Greater food imports, longer food miles, would cause greater pollution. We'd be adding emissions and insecurity.**

The Rural Policy Group cites us as being arguably the most significant agricultural region in the UK, we are the nation's "food basket". We produce 30% of UK veg, 20% beet, 10% wheat.

In September 2025, the latest report I could find, Lincs bucked the trend for the agricultural sector showing higher productivity than other areas, remaining resilient.

Potatoes are a staple crop in the UK, most from this area. Slightly more than a third from the East of England and a good half of that from the East Midlands. 39% of rape seed oil comes from the East

Midlands. Thinking in numbers to comprehend 10 000 acres, this outlandish proposal, that would produce 20/30 billion loaves of bread. *What food security does 10 000 of glassed farmland deliver?*

This city sized development simply subsumes 10 000 acres of the best farmland in the world. Even the one in Ed Milliband's constituency between Doncaster and Rotherham has been turned down by Doncaster City Council at 3500 acres, described as one of the biggest in the country. Our given proposal, or rather imposal, of which Fosse Green is a part, is three times that!

Use the 2 500 sq km of commercial roofs, in addition to private roofs, carparks and ports, public buildings, railway tracks, walls, central reserves, factories, new builds and brown field sites

I've been called a Yuppie, Dinky and no doubt a Nimby throughout my life. Instead I'd like to adopt a new acronym. SMARTI – Solar Must Appear On Roof Tops Instead.

I respectfully request that you decline this application.

Samantha Davis