

Springwell Solar Action Group Response to Fosse Green

Good Evening,

My name is [REDACTED], and I am here representing the Springwell Solar Action Group

Our action group has worked hard to ensure the community is kept informed about developments and we also have tried our hardest to keep the Fosse Green, Springwell & Leoda applicants honest. This has been a challenge

During the assessment phase and post application the applicant has been rather vague on much of what is about to confront our communities.

Whilst we appreciate there has been some reduction in the size of this project it is still colossal and essentially turns a beautiful quiet rural environment into an industrial power plant.

Our community is under threat. Would the financial backers of this scheme want this development in their back garden? The honest answer is NO.

We are surrounded by high grade fertile irrigated agricultural land. Under no circumstances should the Government, Canadian Solar or the current landowner be permitted to [REDACTED] years of successful farming in the name of Net Zero. It is important to call out Canadian Solar as it is clear that Windel Energy & Recurrent Energy are in fact Canadian Solar – a company with a [REDACTED] history

What has become abundantly clear over the last few months is the Net Zero targets are unachievable and are causing significant damage to the UK economic outputs and our standard of living. There are sensible options that can be taken to enhance green energy production such as solar on rooftops, more offshore wind production, Small modular nuclear reactors. As a community we embrace sensible logical change. This is neither. It is purely a scheme that

- A) ticks a climate change box
- B) Makes the landowner a heap of money
- C) Provides Canadian Solar – or any future owners with guaranteed income, due to the ludicrous guarantees that are in place

Neither of these help the British consumer with cheaper electric bills. In fact, all we see are prices increasing.

As a group we have so many concerns on this project, and we raised these in a detailed response late last year. All those concerns are still valid. We will use this opportunity to reaffirm some of our concerns.

This application raises significant questions for the future. Canadian Solar are not farmers. Whilst it is already clear that Canadian Solar will not own this development in

a few years, it is likely to be sold making even more profit. Who will own the land in 60 years? The applicant have all the way through this process guaranteed that the land would return to farming and the quality of the land would not be altered. So, where are the cast iron guarantees that these thousands of acres will be return as best most versatile farmland with no contamination!

Whilst many of us may be naive we are not stupid. This land grab will turn great farmland into a Brownfield industrial complex with a significant amount of contamination from PFAs and Heavy metals that have leached from the solar panels, let alone the risk of significant pollution caused by any issues with the BESS.

It really is sad to see this land covered in solar panels that are likely to emanate from China with direct links to the Uyghur forced labour camps.

As we know the applicants don't publish lists of their panel suppliers. However we do know for sure that all roads lead to Canadian Solar and [REDACTED] to China and the region renowned for human rights abuse.

The planning inspector should be pushing for an absolute transparent supply chain. No panels or BESS equipment should be sourced from any party with links to modern day slavery. If granted permission the applicant should be compelled to publish a transparent supply chain from raw materials to finished products.

As an action group we would like to focus on a few core concerns: -

Cumulative Effects

We are deeply concern regarding the cumulative impact of multiple energy projects currently under consideration in North Kesteven and the wider Lincolnshire County.

While we recognize the importance of renewable energy in combating climate change, the sheer number of proposed projects will result in the decimation of thousands of acres of prime agricultural land, transforming our beautiful landscape into an industrial complex.

This site alone will have hundreds of thousands of solar panels, the BESS will be 1000+ shipping containers, multiple substations and a huge amount of steel and concrete

It is crucial that the Planning Inspectorate considers the cumulative effects of these applications on our county. Lincolnshire relies heavily on agriculture and tourism, and the approval of these projects will have devastating consequences for both sectors. The loss of agricultural land will not only impact local farmers but also on various allied trades linked to the agricultural sector. These developments could have an impact on local jobs. Additionally, the industrialization of our landscape will deter tourists, leading to a decline in revenue for local businesses and a further loss of employment opportunities. We also have a college of further education that provides young people

with a path into the agricultural sector. This sector is being destroyed by this ridiculous rush to net zero.

We urge you to take these concerns seriously and to consider the long-term implications of approving the Fosse Green application. Our community is committed to supporting schemes that promote a greener future, but this must be balanced with the preservation of our environment and the enrichment of our lives.

Land, Soils and Groundwater

It is also abundantly clear having spoken with other major farmers in this area that the impact on the soil will be irreversible. There is strong and credible evidence that with the weather conditions in the UK the solar panels will degrade. As they degrade PFAs and heavy metals will leach into the soil. This contamination will render this land unfit for agricultural purposes.

Landscape & Visual Impact

We live in a stunning area, surrounded by an abundance of wildlife. This area is enjoyed by walkers, runners, cyclists and horse riders. If this industrialisation is permitted, then the Planning Inspector is in effect saying these people and the wildlife don't matter and widespread destruction of the environment is the way to meet Net Zero. There is no reasonable person who can say this development won't have a devastating impact on the landscape.

As a group we have actively taken videos at various times of the year to show the beauty, individuals have reported the abundance of wildlife. We seriously can't allow the pursuit of money to override the richness that we are surrounded by.

We are blessed with migrating birds who rely on our countryside for food and breeding. There is clear evidence that birds mistake panels for water and significant numbers are killed as they fly into them. Is this just another casualty of Net Zero? If planning is granted, we will be forced to walk through fenced off alleys, with hedges grown to hide the unsightly panels and substations, forced to listen to the constant humming from the inverters and substation compounds, be watched over by CCTV Cameras patrolling and monitoring activity, light pollution and a decimation of wildlife. This will no longer be a beautiful countryside. It will be an industrial complex. The impact on the community's wellbeing will be significant. On this point why is the applicant able to produce photo montages of panels hidden by hedges but like all other applicants never shows pictures of the thousands of Battery units or inverter sites. Is there something they don't want the community to see?

We recently had the Freedom Wings on the A46 – this is a fantastic landmark and welcomes people to Lincoln. The next site they will see is a dreadful solar industrial complex.

Battery Storage & Risk

We don't need to look far to see the impacts of BESS facilities when things go wrong, as evidenced by incidents at Moss Landing in the US, Statera Energy in Essex, and

Carnegie Road BESS in Liverpool. The applicant may claim they are different and ask for our trust, but this cannot be a reasonable route through planning. Our community needs 100% guarantees that no harm will be done to the environment, water courses, and the communities if a fire were to occur.

A BESS incident is likely and those in the industry acknowledge this. The question is how big the incident will be and can it be managed. There is a real risk of BESS contamination, leading to chemical leaks and groundwater contamination with hazardous materials, including heavy metals like lithium, cobalt, nickel, and manganese. Contamination would be permanent or very long-lasting, affecting drinking water supplies, agriculture, and ecosystems. Who will be responsible to fix this.

It is alarming to our community that we are expected to sit back and trust these developers with our safety. Tell that to the people impacted by Grenfell, Bopal or those poisoned by PFAs from Teflon in the USA. Large corporations should not be trusted and there needs to be scrutiny and oversight all through the process. They certainly should not be allowed to use planning loopholes like the Rochdale Envelope to avoid a very clear breakdown on what they are about to build in our community.

Grid Connection

As we all know Springwell has no current way of connecting to the grid. The planning inspector can't grant permission to this Applicant to build this industrial complex with no legitimate means to connect to the national grid. It is relying on the National Grid substation application being approved at NKDC. This may not be consented to. In addition, we would like to raise real concerns that any power generated during the months when solar is effective won't be consumed in the UK. It will be exported to the Continent via the interconnectors. This energy isn't even for UK consumers. It certainly won't bring down the cost of our electricity.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to the concerns of the Springwell Solar Action Group. Let me conclude.

Our group has worked tirelessly for the last 3.5 years to try and stop this Solar Industrialisation of this beautiful part of Lincolnshire. We are the little people that big corporations hate and feel they can trample on. Once these greedy corporations and landowners have run off with their millions it will be the people living through this nightmare who must live with the consequences.

Thank you.