

WRITTEN REPRESENTATION



Fosse Green Solar Project: Deadline 3

Application Type: Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project

Interested Party: Cliff Villages Solar Action Group (CVSAG)

Author: Cllr Marianne Overton MBE

Submission Date: 20 March 2026

From this...



To this?



WRITTEN REPRESENTATION

Fosse Green Solar Project

Interested Party: Cliff Villages Solar Action Group (CVSAG)

Author: Cllr Marianne Overton MBE

Date: 20 March 2026

1. Introduction

1.1 This Written Representation is submitted on behalf of the Cliff Villages Solar Action Group following the Open Floor Hearing and the Examination held between 10–13 March 2026.

1.2 It addresses matters arising from the Examination, including scale, cumulative impacts, land use, grid connection, battery storage, biodiversity, decommissioning, and procedural safeguards.

2. Scale, Cumulative Impact and Timing

2.1 The size and scale of the proposed Fosse Green development are unprecedented and would fundamentally alter the character of open rural farmland.

2.2 The development extends over approximately eight miles and, when considered alongside other consented and proposed schemes, results in a severe cumulative impact.

2.3 Other developments in the area, including at Skellingthorpe and south of Sleaford, compound this effect.

2.4 Fosse Green is one of three large solar applications which together amount to approximately 10,000 acres (over 4,000 hectares or 40 square kilometres) of productive farmland.

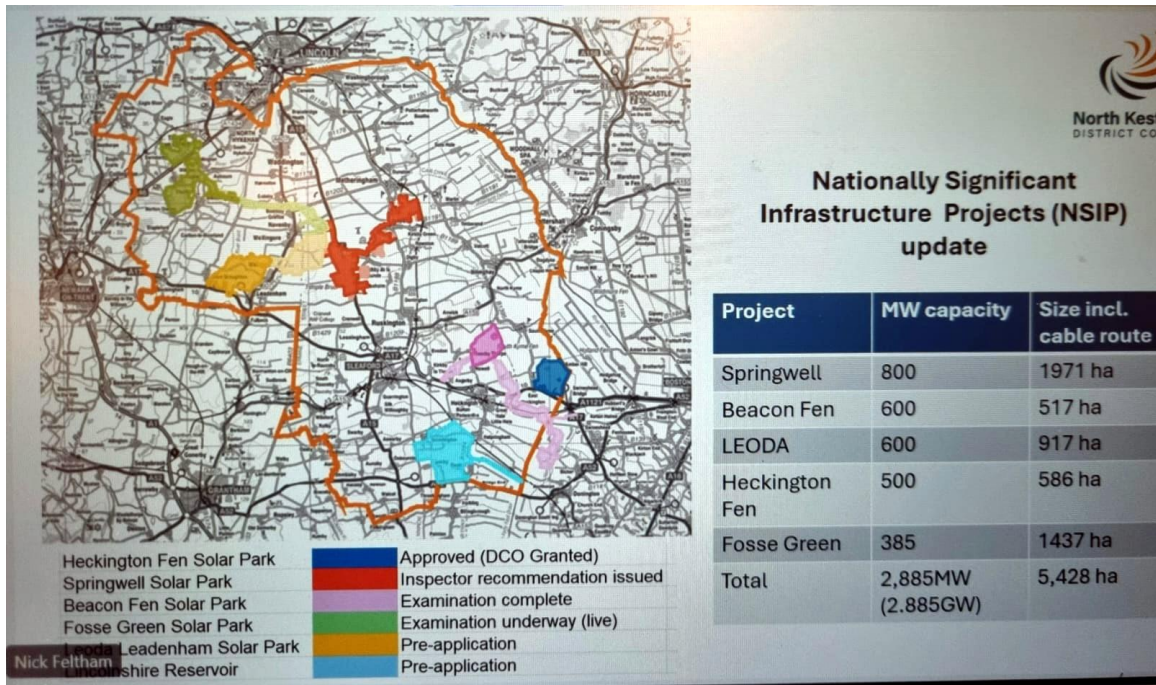
2.5 In addition, five Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), a proposed major substation at Navenby, further substations, and high-voltage cabling would occupy substantial areas of land.

2.6 The cumulative effect is the transformation of a rural landscape into an industrialised energy corridor.

2.7 Construction periods are likely to overlap or occur sequentially, resulting in prolonged disruption over many years.

2.8 This must also be considered alongside the South Hykeham bypass, which traverses approximately 8.5km of the same area.

Fig.1 Map of Nationally significant infrastructure Projects in North Kesteven to show cumulative land take.



2.9 Numerous smaller solar developments under 50MW have also been approved or proposed on farmland in the area.

2.10 Not all of these schemes have been properly accounted for in cumulative impact assessments.

3. Loss of Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land

3.1 The Fosse Green site alone covers approximately 2,643 acres, increasing to 3,379 acres when the cable corridor is included.

3.2 This equates to approximately 14 square kilometres, exceeding the size of some London boroughs.

3.3 The combined three solar applications would occupy around 12,000 acres of good agricultural land.

3.4 Almost one quarter of the Fosse Green site is classified as Best and Most Versatile (BMV) land.

3.5 The long-term occupation of this land for up to 60 years by multinational companies represents a significant loss to food security and the rural economy.

3.6 The adverse impacts on tourism and the local economy have not been adequately assessed.

3.7 Reliance on foreign-owned companies and imported solar panels raises energy security concerns.

4. Grid Connection and Deliverability

4.1 There is currently no confirmed Gate 2 grid connection evident for the Fosse Green development.

4.2 If such a connection had been secured, it would be visible on the relevant Government registers.

4.3 There is also no Gate 2 grid connection for the associated battery storage proposals.

4.4 Proposals for a substation at Navenby have not yet been submitted for determination.

5. Battery Energy Storage Systems – Justification and Safety

5.1 Residents have expressed serious concerns regarding the proposed storage of approximately 1,300 lithium-ion battery containers near villages.

5.2 Battery Energy Storage Systems draw electricity from the grid when prices are low and export it when prices rise.

5.3 There is no locational necessity for these facilities to be sited here.

5.4 The proposed substation would occupy approximately four acres and represent permanent industrial development.

5.5 In the absence of a confirmed grid connection, all battery proposals should be refused.

6. Oversupply of Solar Generation

6.1 Evidence submitted previously demonstrates that national solar generation targets have already been met.

6.2 Oversupply results in operational renewable generation being curtailed while contractual payments continue.

6.3 Without resolving this issue, the claimed benefits of further large-scale solar development cannot be realised.

7. Biodiversity Net Gain

7.1 Measures such as additional hedgerows are already being delivered through existing DEFRA grant schemes.

7.2 Replacement footpaths alongside high screening hedges do not provide an equivalent recreational experience.

7.3 It is unclear how genuine Biodiversity Net Gain would be achieved.

8. Decommissioning, Enforcement and Financial Risk

8.1 Investigations raise concerns regarding the financial resilience of the companies involved.

8.2 Monitoring and enforcement are not statutory duties for councils and are likely to diminish further.

8.3 An upfront decommissioning bond is essential.

8.4 If generation ceases to be cost-effective, removal should be required by condition.

9. Procedural Safeguards

9.1 Developments of this scale require full and proper consideration.

9.2 Where a decision is not issued within statutory timescales, this should be treated as a refusal.

10. Conclusion

10.1 Members of the Cliff Villages Solar Action Group have submitted detailed evidence.

10.2 We support the objections set out in the District and County Local Impact Reports.

10.3 For the reasons set out above, the application should be refused. The benefits are not secured and the negative impacts are overwhelming. The site selection was not driven by EN policy with a sequential approach, but instead “driven by the availability of land” and only within a 15km radius of the arbitrary point, Navenby. Put simply, the proposed development is much too large and in the wrong place.

/Cllr Marianne Overton MBE 20.3.26