

This submission is made on behalf of Dame Andrea Jenkyns.

It is intended as a late submission for Deadline 3A, as referenced in correspondence from the Examining Authority. As the Deadline 3A option is no longer available on the portal, it has been submitted under Deadline 4 for administrative purposes. The content relates to Open Floor Hearing 1 and Deadline 3 submissions.

There are significant concerns regarding the scale, necessity and long term impacts of the proposed Fosse Green Solar development.

Families and businesses across Lincolnshire are already facing considerable cost of living pressures, particularly in relation to energy. While there is support for secure energy supply and lower bills, there is concern that this proposal would industrialise approximately 2,400 acres of productive farmland for up to sixty years without delivering clear or direct benefits to consumers. The proposal includes around 381MW of generating capacity, despite only 240MW being exportable to the grid, raising questions about whether the scale of development is justified.

The landscape and visual impact would be substantial. The open farmland and historic character of the Cliff Villages and surrounding areas form an important part of Lincolnshire's identity. The introduction of large scale solar infrastructure, including panels, substations, fencing and associated development, would fundamentally alter this rural landscape.

There are also concerns regarding ecology and biodiversity. While mitigation and enhancement measures are often proposed, the long term impact of extensive land use change and fenced infrastructure on habitats and wildlife remains uncertain and requires careful scrutiny.

The impact on cultural heritage is another key issue. The area contains historic landscapes and heritage assets whose setting may be harmed by industrial scale development, potentially resulting in permanent loss of heritage value.

The loss of agricultural land is a particularly serious concern. Lincolnshire plays a vital role in national food production, and the removal of large areas of farmland from use for decades raises questions about food security. The long term effects on soil quality and land productivity are not fully understood.

Fire safety is also a concern, particularly in relation to the proposed battery energy storage system. While incidents may be rare, they can be difficult to manage and require appropriate resources and preparedness from emergency services.

There is also concern about the cumulative impact of multiple large scale solar developments across Lincolnshire. Without a clear strategic approach, there is a risk of disproportionate concentration of such infrastructure within the county.

Finally, the potential impact on public rights of way should be considered. These routes are an important part of the rural environment and their character may be significantly affected by large scale infrastructure.

In conclusion, while recognising the importance of energy generation, it is essential that developments are appropriately scaled and located. The potential impacts on landscape, agriculture, heritage and local communities must be carefully weighed. The concerns raised by residents and local representatives should be given full consideration.