

Submission to Planning Inspectorate Re Fosse Green Energy Ltd - EN010154

Deadline 5 – 28 April 2026

Carl Koenen – IP No: [REDACTED] - Resident of Thorpe on the Hill

Further to both my previous submissions to the Planning Inspectorate in respect of the proposed Fosse Green Development these dated 19 January 2026 (Deadline1) and 11 March 2026 it remains my contention that the scale of the proposed development in its current form will take a disproportionate amount of land within the parish of Thorpe on the Hill. That notwithstanding it is also my contention that such a large scale proposed solar development would be to the detriment of food production and the local communities both from an economic, mental health and general wellbeing position. Large scale solar developments belong on commercial roofs.

The total parish area of 737 hectares would see the proposed development cover 349 hectares. This amounts to 47% of the parish area. During ISH1 the applicant confirmed that the total area of solar panel developments, less cable corridor and areas for associated BESS, across all the development sites would amount to 1136 acres (460 hectares). With the area of Thorpe on the Hill having 862 acres (349 hectares) of development this means that 75% of the total Fosse Green development would be sited within the parish boundary of Thorpe on the Hill. This seems totally out of balance.

have reviewed the 9.19 Applicant's Response to the Planning Authority. Text shown in italics is a direct quote from this document.

CC.2.02 Extent of proposed Order Limits

The EXA asks: 1) why the proposed Order Limits are comparatively so extensive; and 2) how much land within the proposed Order Limits, following the proposed development's construction, would be needed to operate and maintain a generating station with associated capable for a project with a grid export limit of 240 megawatts (MW).

The applicant's response is: *The solar area of the Proposed Development (Works No.1, as per the Works Plans [AS-105]) is 454.5ha (1123 acres). With reference to Table 10-1 of the Solar Technology Technical Guide [REP2-033], when comparing this to other solar NSIP*

schemes with a comparable connection capacity, the difference in solar areas is minimal – for example, Mallard Pass (240MW AC) has a 420ha (1038 ha) solar area, Fenwick Solar Farm (237.5MW AC) has a 407ha (1005 acres) solar area.

This does not appear to actually come up with the figures asked for. In addition, an impact on a static visual receptor than the design and layout of the part of the Order limits closest to them. In addition the Applicant has confused hectares for acres in the figures they have quoted for Mallard Pass. (See high-light in red)

CC2.05 Resilience

EXA asks: Explain how the impacts of climate change on the proposed development have been taken into account and how the proposed development has been developed to respond to the challenges of climate change, for example an increase in frequency of extreme weather event.

Applicants bullet point response is all very laudable but there is no guarantee that they would be responsible for implementation as the same company sold on the development for Mallard Pass.

In my submission in March at Deadline 3 I commented on the ExA's request for information issued on the 27th February 2026 question number LV 2.03 to the Applicant has quite rightly picked up on their assertion that solar panels are perceived differently by different individuals. The applicant had asserted *"...some will perceive them as unwanted, industrial and urbanizing; others will see them as important, sensitive, rural and even agricultural. When solar farms were first introduced to our landscapes they would 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 colour within an established agricultural landscape..."* This is taken from para 3.3 of Appendix 7-D of the ES (Environmental Statement) (Detailed Heritage Asset Assessment [APP – 127]).

We now have the Applicant's response which I personally feel is less than convincing

"..... in recent Appeal Decisions, comprising (amongst others) Land at Park Farm, Gillingham, Dorset (Appeal Ref: APP/D1265/W/22/3300299), where the Inspector remarked (on the matter of the character of solar farms) "... are becoming gradually accepted in rural areas."

Please note this was a development of 92 acres nowhere near the size of the Fosse Green proposal.

The authors at University of Lancaster wrote on the university's website that "Ground-mounted solar farms have become a familiar sight across the UK's agricultural landscape".

That assertion does not make this proposal attractive to local communities who will be faced with large scale solar: Springwell. Fosse Green and Leoda totalling 9000 acres within North Kesteven.

Regarding the 'washed over' appearance of the Proposed Development the Visual Assessment (Appendix 10-F: Visual Assessment of the ES [AS-120]) found that, to recreational users of Vikings Way, the Principal Site will be barely perceptible due to the approximate distance of at least 4.4km, and that the Principal Site will result in a change of colour and texture across the fields, compared to baseline conditions.

Regarding the scale of the solar farm, visual impacts arising from the Proposed Development typically result from people's views of a relatively small part of the wider Site, given that the Proposed Development is not visible in its entirety from an individual location. As such the overall scale of the Proposed Development has less of an impact on a static visual receptor than the design and layout of the part of the Order limits closest to them.

I have to say that if you are part of a development that covers 862 acres or 349 hectares or 484 football pitches as the residents of Thorpe on the Hill could face, I don't think there will be *"...less of an impact..."*

The communities of Thorpe on the Hill, Aubourn & Haddington, Thurlby, Witham St Hughes, Norton Disney, Bassingham, Boothby Graffoe, Coleby and Navenby will all find themselves visually affected as they traverse this area of Lincolnshire.

SOLAR ON ROOFS NOT ON FARMLAND

Thank You

Carl Koenen – 28 April 2026 Thorpe on the Hill Lincolnshire