

Summary of oral case delivered in OFH1 - 27Nov25

Whilst generally in favour of green energy I object to the planned arrangement of panels for this project. The total area of panels is 16.2Km<sup>2</sup>, but it is unacceptable that the developer has chosen to position these panels in a large ring around the countryside (the most northerly fields being c.14Km from the Grid feed-in at Staythorpe), thereby creating an 'enclosed and affected' area of some 150 Km<sup>2</sup>. This is either an unfortunate outcome of the generous offer made to land owners to rent their fields, or a deliberate policy to create the ring at the outset.

To get a context of size of this enclosed/affected area, the area of Nottinghamshire County is 2,160 Km<sup>2</sup>, so this project will occupy c. 7% of the County. One fifteenth of the County for a single project? By any measure this is completely out of kilter and should not be allowed to proceed in this manner. Unfortunately, I recognise only too clearly that this green energy project is also a financial instrument with a huge guaranteed income stream. The only way to hold the developer to proper account is to insist the panel fields are re-located to a smaller, compact area nearer to, and around, Staythorpe. It could provide the same number of panels and generating capacity, but not lead to ruination of a vast swathe of countryside.

Stephen Bunnell