Submission ID: S04955DA6

Impact of numerous energy projects affecting Weston Marsh, which Meridian Solar Farm is due to connect to a new substation by huge pylons. Initially we were told that the connection would be underground.
Massive loss of agricultural land desperately needed for growing food. Concerns about food security. Projects of this nature should be on brownfield sites, industrial buildings etc.
Massive blot on landscape - creating an industrial area and not rural as present, effect on our wildlife.
Traffic concerns for our rural roads affecting residents and the area for many months. Huge disruptions to local life and farming activities. Dust, polution, noise ..... Access roads need to be suitable for large amounts of construction and workers' vehicles.
Negative impact on total area.
There seems to be no meaningful interaction with local communities and residents - questions being asked with no response, unanswered letters and emails. No meaningful engagement with our local land agents. The effects on people's health from the stress and strain of all the uncertainty .
Lots and lots of questions to be answered.

My Name is Jenny Pennington and we are farmers, residents, business and landowners at Spalding Marsh (Weston Marsh). My husband, Ian, is also a parish councillor for Weston Parish.

We are being impacted by the numerous energy projects that are being planned for Weston Marsh that are due to connect into 2 proposed new National Grid substations. One of these projects is Meridian Solar Farm. Whilst we are not against Net Zero, we would like, if possible, for some of these projects to be paused for more thought and detailed consultation with more joined up thinking between all of the parties involved. Whilst National Grid have categorically stated that the Meridian Project has no connection to Weston Marsh, this still remains a possibility.

Our prime concern has to be for the huge areas being lost or temporarily put out of use of good Grade 1 agricultural land. Our land in this part of Lincolnshire has some of the best land in the country and we had understood that projects, such as the Meridian Solar Farm, were to use lesser quality land wherever possible. As farmers and custodians of the land, we of course are adamant that farmland should be used for growing the valuable crops that we do. In the present fragile state of the world, we are also deeply concerned about food security. ABSOLUTE SACRILEGE TO USE SUCH LAND !

The whole Meridian project would be a massive blot on the landscape making parts of the area more industrialised instead of a rural one. Our concerns are for the wildlife that is prevalent and will be disturbed by the construction and development of these sites – on one day this last year we were alerted to the sorry case of 3 dead swans caused by hitting overhead power lines – it has been now confirmed that this was actually 4 ! Massive concerns for the disruption also which will be caused over many months to residents of South Lincs. Noise, disruption, pollution, dust for us all for many, many months !!

Traffic is a huge concern for affected areas with our county roads being very narrow and in places only capable of one vehicle at a time. Plans need to be a lot clearer as to how this is to be managed and what plans are in place for these roads to be brought up to standard or new roads constructed to take the numerous lorries and cars that will be using them. Access roads need to be adequate to cope with the volume of construction traffic together with existing farming and private vehicles. A major concern for us has to be focused around the planned access road on the A151 at Weston – this will be an absolute nightmare on an already very busy road and also taking into consideration other projects that are being planned.

The main concern for residents in the Weston areas has to be the pylons which are proposed to be coming from the site to the connection point at Weston Marsh. Another set on top of the 2 projects also been planned ! A very early meeting at which a representative of Meridian Solar Farm spoke we understood that the connection would be via undergrown cabling and not massive 57m high pylons. Another project coming into Weston Marsh of much less capacity is using underground cabling so why cannot this solar farm project ?? Why use pylons ??? We are strongly more in favour of underground cabling and would urge that this be re-considered to try and save our area from being a mass of pylons and overhead power cables.

We have already asked if there is any way that these pylons could connect to the grid somewhere further south of us and closer to the project to protect our farmland and disruption to residents ? We have discussed the possibilities of this with National Grid.

Anything we can do to prevent an extra set of pylons feeding into Weston Marsh would be better.

We also are aware of a 'pinch point' at Broadgate, Weston Hills where both Meridian and National Grid are erecting pylons. The landowner and affected resident is getting no answers - this will drastically affect his haulage business, yard and bungalow. A continual worry and concerns for the affected person and family ! We understand that the resident has already raised an objection with yourselves and since the meeting at Peterborough has followed this up with another email. Please can someone sit up and help this resident.

We have been issued with Heads of Terms from Meridian relating to an option for overhead cabling over a small strip of our land at Weston Marsh – our land agent has been unable to have any meaningful engagement and therefore the document is as yet unsigned. We have had no meeting or discussion with the developers and are discussing this further with our agent as yet there is no promised connection from National Grid.

We are constantly hearing of no meaningful interaction with local communtities and residents – questions being asked with no response, unanswered letters and emails. Huge effects on people's lives and health from the stress and strain of all this uncertainty. Lots and lots of questions to be answered.

We are fully in support of the comments being made to you by the Meridian Action Group and LAND (Land Against Needless destruction) and for the reasons stated are objecting to this application.

Please will someone listen to us!

Jenny Pennington (on behalf of Jenny and Ian Pennington)

[redacted]

September 2026