

SUBMISSION BY THE MERIDIAN ACTION GROUP

REGISTRATION IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: FC94001AB

SUBJECT: LOCAL IMPACT REPORT

SHDC Local Impact Report

MAG supports the Local Impact Report submitted by South Holland District Council. Their report-see below-reflects the comments made by the local community. MAG's analysis of the content of the relevant responses show virtually no support for the project and much concern about the negative impact local impact.

"The impact on the Local Community

Using content from Relevant Responses MAG have analysed the representations which relate to issues of impact on the local community as expressed by individuals exc. businesses.

The top seven issues identified are:

- Loss of high quality agricultural land -133 comments
- Inadequate road infrastructure/heave traffic/road safety-65 comments
- Alternative locations for solar - 61 comments
- Adverse effect on local community inc. disturbance & disruption, health, economic impact, threat to leisure, infrastructure inadequate - 53 comments
- Food security threat - 52 comments
- Adverse visual impact - 44 comments
- Wildlife & diversity - 42 Comments'

Source: MAG Written Statement

Extract from LIR SHDC

Negative Impacts: Severe conflicts with local planning policies due to widespread adverse effects on agriculture, the landscape, local socio-economics, air quality, noise, and traffic.

Key Areas of Concern • Agriculture and Soils: The development impacts highly sensitive land, with 74% categorised as Grade 1 and 2 Best and Most Versatile agricultural land. The Council rejects the applicant's claim that this 40-year impact is temporary, arguing it will severely disrupt food production and the local agricultural supply chain.

- Landscape and Visual Impact: The introduction of extensive energy infrastructure and a 400kV overhead grid connection will cause unacceptable, long-term visual harm to the open, flat Fenland landscape. The Council noted the omission of a Residential Visual Amenity Assessment and criticised the applicant's failure to sufficiently explore partial

under grounding alternatives. Cumulative industrialism with other nearby projects is also a major concern.

- Socio-Economic Impacts: The scheme is projected to create only five net local jobs over 40 years, which the Council states fails to offset the agricultural disruption
- Furthermore, a proposed £500,000 annual community fund lacks formal guarantees within the Development Consent Order.
- Traffic, Noise, and Health: Construction on traffic on unsuitable rural roads raises significant concerns regarding weight limits and vibrations, harm to nearby houses, and the application lacks a detailed construction management plan. The Council also highlights risks from sustained construction dust, omitted fire hazard assessments for the BESS systems, and overnight operational noise from the infrastructure.

MAG believes that SHDC's LIR fairly and accurately reflects the view of the local community.

Submitted on behalf of the MERIDIAN ACTION GROUP (MAG)
meridianactiongroup@gmail.com

Note: AI was not used in writing this submission