

Our main objections to this proposal are as follows.

1. The sheer size of the project would surround and engulf our small village. All four roads into/out of the village would be adjacent to fields of solar panels. Footpaths from and nearby would all be similarly spoilt. The pleasant vistas experienced on approaching the village from any one of the four possible roads in would be replaced by the feeling of entering an industrial estate with views of row upon row of solar panels in place of green fields. The enjoyable experience of walking round the village with glimpses of long views of countryside again would be replaced by fields of solar panels. A constant reminder of what we would have lost, a pleasant rural village, our home, becoming just an industrial complex.

2. The effect on views from and close by the village would be totally spoilt, long views of pleasant countryside would become row upon row of solar panels or with screening so high as to hide the panels would be like walking down a narrow high sided walled corridor.

We are a retired older married couple and live on [REDACTED]. We take our dog out daily and have three favourite regular walks that we can do from the door with no need to use the car; Pickworth Road, Uffington Road, and the PRoW from the A6121 Stamford Road to the B1176. They are pleasant country walks with plenty of bird activity and good country views. All of them would be badly affected by the proposed sitings of solar panels. High fences to shield field upon field of solar panels would mean it would be like walking along a narrow corridor. Bird song would be replaced by an irritating drone from the solar panels. Our daily healthy activity would become a stressful chore and a constant reminder of what we had lost. Our daily dog walk would be ruined. The proposed extra footpaths have not been properly researched as to viability and in one case involve crossing the main East Coast railway line at a point where there is no bridge and railway notices prohibit any access. All of the rights of way in the area would be impacted and spoiled in the long term and likely to be closed while construction is underway. Two years is a long time to wait to take the dogs for a walk!!!

3. When there is an increasing need for Britain to become more self-sufficient in food production it seems very shortsighted to be removing agricultural land currently being used for arable crops.

4. We live in one of the bungalows on the main road. It can be difficult and sometimes dangerous pulling out of our drive at present, so we are alarmed at how much extra heavy traffic there will be especially in the construction phase when every delivery will go past our house and also in the running of the site after completion. Large and heavy lorries going past our bungalow 12 hours a day, 6 days a week would make it more difficult to drive out from our driveway, and would significantly increase the noise, the dust and the poorer air quality we would experience in the garden and inside the bungalow with open windows. Again at the detriment to our health, a particular worry as my husband suffers from significant breathing problems. Casterton road is a narrow local road with two schools, it is not suitable for such regular quantities of heavy construction delivery vehicles.

5. The labour requirement for such a project would be huge, it is estimated that up to 400 workers could be on site with their attendant heavy vehicles. That is more than the population of Essendine. Who will these workers be, will they be vetted, where will they live, where will they park, what will they do for recreation? These are all pressing worries. The noise and dirt generated during construction would be considerable especially as the construction sites surround the village so closely.

6. We are also concerned about the Chinese involvement in such a large-scale project. Do we want foreign influence and control over our energy supplies. Surely the current problems over energy would suggest Britain must have complete control over such a crucial area.

7. We attended all the meetings and presentations the company gave to inform us of this proposed solar farm. At no time did they mention the need for compulsory acquisition of some of our verge and front garden, we were only informed of this after the date for feed back had passed. The information they have provided is vague and the map is not accurate enough for us to work out how much of our garden it affects. We are concerned that during this part of the construction we will not be able to drive out of our bungalow, or have difficulty returning. Access will be particularly difficult for visitors, all our immediate family and support live some distance away.