

I am writing as a local resident and manager of a pre-school in Ryhall, caring for and educating our youngest residents of Ryhall, Essendine, Carlby and Belmesthorpe, to express my concerns regarding the scale and siting of the proposed solar farm.

Our children are being educated and supported in protecting and celebrating our local and extended environment. We recycle waste on a daily basis, refer to the impact of the diversity of our weather, visit and celebrate our churches and enjoy the wildlife on our doorstep.

The children are particularly interested at the moment in wind turbines but were equally fascinated when a badger ran through our play area. Working within the Early Years Foundation Stage means that our practice is very much led by the children's own interests. As practitioners we support and extend their understanding of what is happening in the environment.

These children are the future and I believe that it is absolutely imperative that their well being is considered.

The children have donated resources to Ukraine and we always try to make a consideration of not wasting food, power or resources meaningful for two, three and four year olds. We take the children for walks to see crops being grown and evidence of wildlife locally. Some children saw the flooded church in Essendine.

I ask that a measured opinion is taken regarding any, or at least the scale of development in order to protect the area for these children. I could add so much more as childcare is my passion and children deserve a voice too.

As a resident I struggle to see why this area is being considered. Why are solar panels not being added to factory rooftops, railway embankments and brownfield sites? The roads locally are already in a poor state of repair. I have lived in Essendine for more than thirty years. An industrial estate was already here when I bought my house but the beautiful unspoiled countryside surrounding the village compensated for this. During the lockdown of two years ago the quieter roads made cycling and dog walking an absolute pleasure. I can sadly envisage a future when that will not be the case. On our daily walks we see numerous bird species, herds of deer and evidence of badgers and foxes. This proposal will have a massive impact on this.

The situation regarding the Russia/Ukraine war must surely be considered regarding food production. I feel that this whole suggestion of a solar farm in this position is being driven by actions of a few at the expense of many, many more local residents.