

I am writing to you to express my grave concerns for the future if the current proposals for four solar farms are allowed to be developed in my area of West Lindsey. These schemes together will cover an area of over 10,000 acres and take this productive land out of the food production chain. We need arable land. It is utter madness to limit our ability to produce our own food and rely on expensive foreign imports instead. This is all being done in pursuit of solar energy which is intermittent and unreliable. It will never create enough additional power to be worthwhile and become a major source of energy. Additionally, the local area round Glentworth where I live will be changed forever in its appearance, usability, ecologically and economically.

I should also like to offer you a personal perspective from someone who will be directly affected by one of these schemes.

[REDACTED] We hoped that she would be able to enjoy a better quality of life surrounded by fields and nature. It is now going to be all taken away from us if these schemes goes ahead. It is currently proposed that one of the fields next to our isolated rural property has been ear-marked for solar panels. This field lies less than 10 metres from our property boundary. Not only will we be surrounded by these solar displays, if allowed to go ahead, but we have grave concerns over the health and safety issues associated with the battery and power infrastructure required for the panels. Additionally, I am incredibly concerned over the effects that the building of such a scheme will have. I am informed that this could last four years and will involve a huge influx of heavy traffic along rural roads not built for them and the importation of a large non-local workforce working in the fields all around us. When you live more than a third of a mile away from your nearest neighbour in an isolated house, this is of grave concern. I am so worried about the future that it is affecting my mental health.

I am concerned that the governance process around this consultation is fundamentally flawed. Ultimately the decision will be made by the secretary of state for net zero and climate change. This person is not independent.

The 'expert' advisors to these projects are also not independent as they have been retained and paid for by the Tillbridge team so of course they will arrive at the conclusions that their paymasters wish.

This project represents a lack of 'joined-up' thinking by government. The department of health and social care is currently advocating the concept of 'green' prescribing, which acknowledges the benefits to well-being and mental health for people of living in or visiting green open spaces. The industrialisation of vast tracts of land will have an incredibly adverse impact on the health and well-being of local people.

I attended a public consultation meetings run by the Tillbridge project team and was appalled that the project team was unable to answer even the most basic of questions. Quite candidly, I found the team arrogant, uninformed and uncaring of the views of local people.