

There are currently four solar development schemes in West Lindsey, a small part of rural Lincolnshire of which Gate Burton Energy Park is just one. Cumulatively, these proposals would occupy 10,000 acres and remove valuable farmland from food production. They would alter the rural landscape of this area and the resulting industrialisation would impact the area visually, socially, ecologically and economically.

I am opposed to the Gate Burton Energy Park's proposals and have concerns over the way all these companies have applied for development approval. The fact that Tillbridge Solar have shown reciprocal support for Gate Burton Energy Park in their Relevant Representations and that the same developer, Island Green Park, has proposed two of the schemes shows that they are acting in concert and are joined schemes. Therefore, the applications should be considered as one, not separately. They are all in a concentrated area and jointly impact the affected communities. They cannot realistically be viewed as four individual proposals.

Additionally, since these schemes have been classified within the National Infrastructure Framework, decisions will be made at a national level and, ultimately, by the Secretary of State thus by-passing the views of the local district and county councils.

The scale and number of this scheme in conjunction with the other three means that this area will be seriously impacted by them all, not just one. They should be considered as one proposal for this reason and sufficient time given to allow local residents to prepare responses and engage in the consultation process.

In my opinion, Gate Burton Energy Park, like the other schemes, has not paid sufficient regard to the impact of these proposals on the local community nor the human costs.