

7000 Acres

Written Summary of Oral Case: 7000 Acres Issue Specific Hearing One

July 2023

7000 Acres represents a large number of local residents concerned about the impact of the Gate Burton NSIP and three other solar NSIPs in the locality. This summarises the oral submissions made by 7000Acres at Issue Specific Hearing One.

Agenda Item 4.1

7000 Acres believes the generating and storage capacity of the system should be capped. The Little Crow DCO was quoted as an example of a solar NSIP being capped.

Agenda Item 4.2

7000 Acres identified that a solar farm will not produce any power at night, circa 50% of the year. Additionally, the solar PV panels will produce substantially less than their rated power during the autumn, winter and spring. Typically, it will generate 11% of its rated power. Therefore, the extremely large Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) intended by the Applicant will not be fully charged by the solar array for the majority of the year. Allowing the extremely large BESS (circa 500MWh but uncapped) to trade power, under the guise of “*grid balancing*”, with the National Grid will result in the BESS being the only source of income at night and the major source of income for most of the year. Guidance in the Planning Act 2008, Associated Development Principles 3.(iii) states: *“Development should not be treated as associated development if it is only necessary as a source of additional revenue for the applicant, in order to cross-subsidise the cost of the principal development. This does not mean that the applicant cannot cross-subsidise, but if part of a proposal is only necessary as a means of cross-subsidising the principal development then that part should not be treated as associated development.”*

Furthermore, Annex A and B to the Guidance provides examples of associated development specific to individual types of major infrastructure project. Nowhere in the Guidance is “battery” or “BESS” shown as an example.

7000 Acres considers the 500MWh (but uncapped) BESS to be an additional source of revenue to the PV generating capacity and so is not Associated Development.

Therefore, the BESS should be sized (and capped) according to the generating capability of an average day. Additionally, it should be located at the grid connection point on the brownfield site at Cottam Power Station.

Agenda Item 4.3

7000 Acres stated that it did not consider 60 years to be “temporary use”. The consent should be for the lifespan of the solar PV panels.

Agenda Item 4.4

7000 Acres supported Lincolnshire CC’s proposal for a bond to cover decommissioning. Foreign owned utility companies, such as Thames Water, have shown that the public and taxpayer need protection.

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