

Since the proposed scheme was announced I have engaged with the process, read the many documents published, attended in person meetings to make sure I am informed and able to make what I believe are sound decisions based on information provided by the applicant. I would point out the convenience of a connection onto the national grid is not a good enough reason for the Low Carbon Gate Burton Energy Park project to be given the go-ahead.

The communities of 30 villages will be affected, (including mine which will be completely surrounded and overwhelmed North, South, East & West for miles) imprisoned by 4.5m (15ft high) tracking solar panels, highly dangerous BESS batteries, sub-stations, 'shipping containers' in the hundreds, security fencing, CCTV and all associated paraphernalia on both sides of the A1500 and the B1241 that I and others travel daily and also along the A156 and the narrow, inter-twining country lanes between these 30 villages. I can think of no more a soul destroying, demoralising and depressing existence for all who will be affected by this and the other three proposed solar development(s) in such close proximity to each other.

Individually each Project is of such magnitude that combined they are almost 20 km (over 12 miles) from one end to the other with a perimeter stretching over 80 km (50 miles). The impact on the lives of the residents including my own family, my grandchildren, and the well-being and mental health of others by the cumulative nature of these solar developments will be appalling.

We are facing industrialisation and annihilation of beautiful, wildlife diverse uninterrupted countryside and productive farmland around our homes - in the case of Low Carbon Gate Burton it will be for 60 years minimum and will also encompass and overshadow the Grade II listed Gate Burton Hall and its Gardens, Historic England No. 1359458, listed under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, the Grade II listed St Helen's Church Historic England No. 1064087 both being directly opposite the Grade II listed Gate Burton Chateaux, when this designated heritage setting should be preserved. This proposed solar development will harm these listed buildings and their setting as it would woefully dominate and devastate the landscape. This would be nothing short of environmental and psychological vandalism. An apocalypse. This is not a delicate balance in any shape or form between protecting rural communities and recognising the climate emergency.

Furthermore, as the crow flies, the Low Carbon proposed solar development will be extremely close to the Lea Fields Crematorium. Throughout the construction period and beyond there will be noise (and disruptive traffic delays) as the A156 is the only road leading directly to the Crematorium and is en-route to the solar development.

A consistent policy toward encouraging the installation of solar panels on roofs of industrial, commercial and domestic buildings and brownfield sites is needed and would negate the need for large-scale mounted solar farms which will destroy not protect the Natural Environment, landscape and eco-systems. New and more efficient domestic panels are becoming available being more cost effective.

There are questions over the accuracy of the forecasts by Low Carbon for the amount of energy this project is likely to produce for the amount of farmland that is being plundered, particularly in the depths of winter when energy is most needed. On average solar can only deliver 11% of its stated output in the UK and on average the government says 5 acres of land are used for every 1MW of output. This makes Solar plants a highly inefficient use of land compared to wind.

The applicant has provided no evidence for the actual carbon savings that this scheme will produce. Until we see this evidence then the scheme has to be seen as not being carbon neutral.

The risks of these proposals very much outweigh the hypothesised/speculated benefits put forward by Low Carbon.

The significant Loss of Amenity Use and Visual Impact affecting a far greater area than the boundaries of the scheme.

Loss of agricultural land is insupportable and loss of food production. We are a net importer of food. Lincolnshire is a food producing county. Low Carbon confirm in their Environmental Statement January 2023 14.7.3 ES Volume 1, page 2 (referencing Chapter 6) that the land is predominantly Grade 3b with some 3a (good quality agricultural land). There is evidence that Grade 3b is also capable of producing very high quality yields and therefore should not be dismissed as moderate quality farmland.

An interesting fact: Natural England are the main statutory body concerned with soils matters. As a non-departmental public body (NDPB), Natural England is independent of government. However, the Secretary of State for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs has the legal power to issue guidance to Natural England on various matters, a constraint that was not placed on its predecessor NDPBs. Natural England is sponsored by the Department for Food & Rural affairs so is not an entirely independent body !

Loss of tenant farmers, their livelihoods and homes / the effects on the economy of local agricultural and other associated business.

Cultural heritage impact: Lincoln is steeped in great architecture, history and heritage in abundance with a rich culture of food, festivals and family businesses – hotels, local b&bs, shops, transport and more which depend on tourism and visitors. There are earthworks which are the remains of a medieval village at Gate Burton and history dictates there are most likely further archaeological remains hidden beneath the extensive areas of farmland where the proposed solar project is to be sited.

Harmful: Life changing disruption for 2 years (or 4 years) to the affected villages/villagers and visitors/travellers passing through with high risk for accidents to the public. Traffic, access and construction - narrow lanes around villages not suited to large construction vehicles, hundreds of LGVs, HGVs & Abnormal load vehicles (ALVs) and plant and machinery, 363 plus workers from outside the area (60 miles away minimum) travelling to a site operational from 7.00am – 7.00pm daily. Intrusion of CCTV on such a scale not seen in countryside settings.

Harmful: Noise and light pollution, poor air quality. Industrial size Tracking or Static solar panels, 13.5metre high sub-station (s), converters the audible noise 365 days a year for 40 - 60 years from all the associated hardware. Glint and glare issues from millions of solar panels (estimated 7,000,000 on all four proposed solar sites). Low Carbon state that over the 60 year period (or beyond) the batteries will be replaced after 15 years and the solar panels after 30 years. This confirms there will be further periods of considerable disruption and even more noise during the operational lifetime of the site (apart from during the years of construction and de-commissioning) which will affect all aspects of life, ecology and bio-diversity, wildlife, removal of miles of hedges, trees, loss of flora and fauna which may never fully recover. The wildlife

will not return...why would it with such disturbance taking place. Assessment by Low Carbon that 'During construction, the impact on Human Health and Wellbeing is assessed as: neutral • During operation, the impact on Human Health and Wellbeing is assessed as: neutral • During decommissioning, the impact on Human Health and Wellbeing is assessed as: neutral' will be shown to be an inaccurate narrative.

Harmful: Health and safety issues particularly the dangers of Lithium-ion batteries (BESS) with history of explosion and fire, releasing toxic gas hazardous to health, to water and land, unable to be extinguished by water. The local Fire Brigade does not have the experience to deal with such fires and if they did it would still be a highly perilous event for anyone in the area. Batteries not governed by the Health and Safety Executive. Failed to be addressed during consultation by Low Carbon.

Document Reference: EN010131/APP/1.3 Low Carbon Bio-diversity Net Gain contains one sentence on Page 21 - 10.1.9 The Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment [EN010131/APP/7.9] presents an indication of the biodiversity net gain that could be delivered by the Scheme and how this has been calculated. Again not facts but hypothesis. Too many desk based studies !

Why so many miles of cabling trenches through farmland ? What about flooding ?

Hedges taking 15 years plus to grow to obscure solar panels !

My grandchildren will be more than half a century old before they see these green fields and the patchwork quilt of crops changing through the seasons again. People choose to live in the countryside because it is just that, countryside. A wonderful place to be but who will come to live here if all there is to see is solar. What happens to all the affected people when a fall in their property prices ensues and no-one wants to buy their home. The harm will be lasting. WHY on this scale when 250 acres was the largest solar farm to have been built in the UK previously ?

What remnant is this to leave for our children and grandchildren ?

Patricia Mitchell - 18 July 2023

Analogy Revealed - the 100-plus medieval Lincolnshire villages that were wiped off the map (not shown below) ie. Monasteries, hamlets and farms that have been lost in the mists of time....

Today, as it was then, it is all about the money.

The generally accepted reason for the desertion of the majority of these sites was usually economic. England was a major producer and exporter of wool during the medieval period, and the raising of sheep was one of the biggest industries in Lincolnshire at that time.

Essentially, raising sheep was far more profitable than growing crops, and many landlords converted their arable villages to pastoral sheep farms, kicking the vast majority of the village's inhabitants out, thus abandoning most of the settlements.

Can you see the analogy? 30 more of today's villages will be 'wiped off the map' below and for the very reason that the Medieval villages were also eradicated it's all about the money. The Developers, Overseas Investors – it is probable these solar projects will be sold on.

The map below is self-explanatory. It contains all the villages that will be affected by the proposed four solar developments, Low Carbon Gate Burton, Tillbridge solar, Island Green Power Cottam 1, 2, 3a and 3b, and Island Green Power West Burton 1, 2 & 3. This map shows the extent of the wonderful heritage already discovered and yet there is more below the surface of the BMV productive farmland still to be discovered. This heritage and wealth of history brings in tourism in great numbers to Lincoln and the economy. Lincoln was the third largest Roman City and tourism greatly benefits the City and small businesses in the surrounding villages, tea houses, b&b accommodation and so much more. Tourists will not wish to visit this vast area that really will be destroyed by solar panels and all the horrendous hardware. Property values will drop and already we are seeing local house sales falling through or not selling because of these proposed solar projects and the 10,000 acres of industrial scale solar panels surrounding them. A whole host of reasons why these developments should not proceed. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

