

Why has Lincolnshire been selected as the coverage area for solar projects?

Why have solar projects been prioritised over wind farms? Wind farms can generate more power than required hence why they get turned off when they have produced too much. Would it be not be more of an investment to have wind turbines. Coverage area of solar panels needed to generate the power required is far greater than one static wind turbine. Solar is fully dependent on weather and light and at night time they become redundant. A solar farm in winter can only work on potential daylight for an average of 8 hours. Wind turbines can work day and night.

This seems like a highly ineffective and inefficient use of our productive farmland and I strongly object to this project and the three other large scale projects planned for the area which total approximately 10,000 acres.

The amount of land proposed for this project is vast, literally stretching from one village to the next. How they can say they will "maintain a respectful distance between equipment and infrastructure and existing homes, landscape, ecological and habitat features as well as public rights of way" is beyond me. This project engulfs some houses and will be able to be seen from all angles.

I have seen far more innovative installations of solar panels. For example, the full length of motorway central reservations with a roof of solar panels covering a cycle path underneath, ground level car parks having solar panel canopies, providing shade for cars, also canals having solar panels built over the top of them, reducing evaporation. All using existing infrastructure and with dual purpose rather than decimating more and more green space. Disused MOD sites could be alternative spaces as these large sites are often abandoned with no plans for alternative use and already have public restrictions, fences, security in place with could be upgraded to suit.

Solar panels should be added to transportation such as cars, buses, lorries, trains so they effectively will power themselves meaning charging points would not need to be used as much and electric trains for example would take less power from the grid. All business with roof space such as warehouses, supermarkets, commercial retail parks and industrial trading estates should have solar panels enforced as part of the planning process.

Having read the relevant representations, including those submitted by 7000 Acres, I support all of the statements objecting to the scheme. 7000 Acres is a group I follow as they are doing an excellent job keeping us informed about the proposals. The statements they have made are factual and I agree with their thoughts and feelings on the project.

Tillbridge Solar did a relevant representation for Gate Burton where they stated that;

'Tillbridge Solar Limited proposes to include protective provisions for the benefit of Gate Burton Energy Park Limited within its development consent order and requests that Gate Burton Energy Park Limited includes reciprocal protective provisions for the benefit of Tillbridge Solar Limited within the development consent order'.

There are four proposals underway in this area and Tillbridge Solar's relevant representation demonstrates that these companies are working together and effectively the schemes are closely associated with each other and as such should be examined as one huge project.

Hedgerows are a crucial feature of our countryside. The government is supporting hedgerows in the UK

<https://defra.farming.blog.gov.uk/2023/04/05/how-were-supporting-hedgerow-planting/>

The government has announced a target to create or restore 30,000 miles of hedgerows by 2037, and 45,000-miles of hedgerows by 2050, under the new Environmental Improvement Plan 2023.

<https://www.cpre.org.uk/news/huge-campaign-win-as-government-sets-hedgerow-targets/>

Yet these solar projects go against all of these plans as they will decimate miles of hedgerows and wildlife habitats.

Project location



Key

-  Gate Burton Energy Park site
-  Gate Burton Energy Park connection corridor