

7000 Acres

7000 Acres Response to the Gate Burton Energy Park Ltd Application on the subject of:

Land Productivity

Deadline 2 Submission – 8 August 2023

Land Productivity:

Within Chapter 12: Socioeconomics and Land Use [EN010131- APP-3.1] there is no mention of the existing crop production that will be lost if the acreage is covered in solar panels. There is also no mention of the associated businesses that will be impacted by this loss of crop production. The developer Gate Burton Energy Park should provide an assessment of this topic with quantifiable data covering:

- a) What crops have been produced in the past?
- b) What quantity and grade of crops have been produced?
- c) What percentage of UK production is this?
- d) Where else are these crops produced that can replace the lost production?

Recognising land use pressure as a cross-cutting national challenge, the Geospatial Commission initiated the National Land Data Programme (NLDP) which has explored key land use challenges and demonstrated where innovative data analysis and evidence can support better land use decisions

The impacts of land use changes at a systems level are not always well understood. For example, if we convert agricultural land to use for energy production we would need to consider whether this would necessitate increased food imports to meet our supply needs and therefore if it would relocate rather than resolve negative environmental impacts.