

I object to the proposed development for a number of reasons.

Solar power is a useful 'add on' to energy security, but it is hugely inefficient to utilise good quality arable farmland for this purpose. We already import 50% of the UK's food and competition for finite arable land increases every year. With population growth, the drive for further decarbonisation with new woodlands and peat lands, the growing need for recreational countryside for use by city dwellers, housing, etc, then surely rooftop solar is more coherent as a source of sites for this purpose.

Solar power generation is an inefficient source of energy as it generates 11% of the headline capacity claimed by the developers, and furthermore it produces energy when it is least required ie in the middle of sunny days and nothing when it is required the most ie winter evenings. Battery solutions are often argued as the balancing factor for timing issues, but they have a very limited ability to help as currently they will only have capacity for two hours storage. In my opinion battery storage will be used to buy and bank energy from the grid to re-sell back to the grid when the price differential is maximised to the developers benefit. An additional factor is the safety of lithium battery solutions. They are relatively infrequent but the scale of a 'thermal runaway' fire is major and the scale of the battery parks proposed are larger than any other UK installation.

There are three other similar sized projects under consideration for the area around Gainsborough and the combined impact of the overlapping installation programmes and the eventual loss of 10,000 acres of green countryside will have a major impact on the lives of the local population, reducing rural amenity, affecting amenity, affecting wellbeing and health. These issues need to be considered. In answer to a question from a West Lindsey District councillor, one of the developers indicated that they planned for 1300 vehicle movements per day during the installation on roads not equipped for heavy industrial transport utilisation over the course of approximately two years. Consider this against the background of potentially three other similar sized projects ring undertaken in overlapping installations, if all the projects are approved. This will mean an impossible scale of heavy traffic in a very small area over a significant period of time.

The vast majority of the local affected population live here because of the countryside and the development of these huge industrial areas will totally change the nature of residents lives.

Solar generation on productive farmland is not an answer to the UK's energy security. The past is littered with 'fast' solutions that ended up creating more problems than they solved. I live here because of the countryside and the proposed developments will destroy that for my family and many other residents who have expressed similar views.