

# TRANSCRIPT\_GATEBURTON\_OFH2\_SESSI ON1\_22082023

00:06

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. Good to see so many of us here tonight. It's not six o'clock time for the hearing. To begin, I'd like to welcome you all to this second open floor hearing for the application by get Burton energy Park limited for the good Burton energy Park project.

00:24

Just confirm that everybody at the back of the room can hear me clearly.

00:29

Excellent. Thank you very much. And can I also confirm with Mr. Cook that the livestream and recording of this event has commenced?

00:38

Thank you very much.

00:40

My name is Kennestone. I have been appointed by the Secretary of State as the single examining inspector to examine this application. You will also hear me referred to as the examining authority. My role is to examine the application and to report to the Secretary of State for energy security and net zero with a recommendation as to whether or not the development consent order should be made.

01:05

I will also introduce my planning Inspectorate colleagues who are working with me on this examination, some of whom you may have already spoken to. We have Robert Cook, he's the case manager leading the planning Inspectorate case team for the application. And he's accompanied by Spencer Barrowman.

01:23

I will deal with a few housekeeping matters. For those of you here in the room today. Firstly, can everyone please set all your devices or phones to Silent

01:34

Thank you.

01:36

Toilets, through the double doors that you all came through along the left hand side in the foyer area.

01:45

fire alarms again, we're not expecting any fire alarm this evening or anything of that nature. But if an alarm does go off, emergency exit is the doors out through this end of the corridor door at the end here ticks down a set of stairs are not attended carpark and the assembly point is in the carpark.

02:05

A detailed agenda has not been prepared for this hearing because its purpose is to hear the representations of interested parties who have registered to make oral representations, elaborating on their written representations to date.

02:18

The order in which you will be invited to speak will follow the list provided to me by the case team and is based upon the order in which requests to speak were received. Today's hearing is being undertaken in a hybrid way. Meaning some of you are present with me at the hearing venue. And some of you are joining me virtually using Microsoft Teams. I will make sure that whoever you've decided to attend today, you will be given a fair opportunity to participate.

02:44

A recording of today's hearing will be made available in the good Burton energy Park section of the national infrastructure planning website as soon as practicable after the hearing has finished. With this in mind, please ensure that you speak clearly into the microphone stating your name and who you're representing each time you speak.

03:06

If you do not want to come up to the front table, and speak into the microphone there there is a mic a roving microphone. And if you just wait till that brought to you when it's your turn to speak.

03:20

Link to the planning inspector to privacy notice was provided in the notification of this hearing. I assume that everybody here today has familiarized themselves with this document, which establishes how the personal data of our customers is handled in accordance with the principles set out in data protection laws. Please speak to the case team. If you have any questions about this.

03:42

On this point, it is very unlikely that I will ask you to put any sensitive personal information into the public domain. And I would encourage that you do not do so in your representations. However, if for some reason you feel that it is necessary to refer to information that you would otherwise wish to be kept private and confidential. It should be in a written format, which can then be redacted before being published.

04:06

In this fee, and I would mention that if you want to tell me something about where you live, because it is relevant to what you have to say, please just give me a general location without giving a specific address.

04:19

If you're joining virtually using Microsoft Teams, and prefer not to have your image recorded, you can switch your camera off.

04:30

I will give each speaker up to five minutes to make their submissions. It's my intention not to intervene during your submissions. As long as you remain relevant and within time, I will not interrupt. I will listen to you carefully and if I have any questions, I will raise those at the end of your speaking time. I will set a timer for five minutes and I'll give you a warning 30 seconds before your five minutes are due to a lapse so that you can wrap up

05:01

Finally, the applicant will be given an opportunity to clarify any matters raised once all speakers have been heard, or should make any comments at the end of the hearing.

05:13

There is also an opportunity to respond in writing by deadline three, which is Friday, the first of September.

05:22

Before we start, I just want to thank everybody for attending this evening. Let you know it's important and I do want to hear from you.

05:32

And move on to the second point on the agenda, the purpose of the open floor hearing

05:41

the purpose and confirmation of those who identified that they wished to speak so we did ask for a formal notification of a wish to speak. A number of parties have done that the open floor hearing these open floor hearings are your opportunity to read anything directly to the examining authority that is important and relevant and that you think I should know about and consider

06:09

not about a particular location, or a specific topic. Topic of your representations about the proposal is therefore up to yourself in

06:20

terms of what I have received I've received requests to speak from 19 Interested parties and I shall hear their submissions in the following order. And that's nearest parish council. Martin and get Burton parish council started by stole parish council, telling him parish council.

06:44

I then have 7000 acres but I still only hear from one person for 7000 acres as a representative organization.

06:54

I then have individual IPS who have identified themselves.

07:00

Elizabeth Garbutt.

07:02

Andy Johnson,

07:04

Claire, Ella, Michael hair

07:08

to bring him

07:11

I did see your email is paying if you want to speak you're more than welcome to do so. If you don't, that's fine as well. Katrina Morton, Michael Dover, Gavin catless Denise gap with Don Johnson petition Michel, Martin, Brian, Jeff summers, Helen Mitchell.

07:35

Those are the interested parties who registered to speak. I've also got a couple of

07:41

non registered interested parties who have

07:45

registered or wish to speak and that is Frank Clark, and Andrew Gilchrist. So I will call those people in that order. But before I move on, I recognize that there's

07:58

a number of people here present. Is there anybody else who would wish to speak that I would then wish to add to that list?

08:06

Okay, Katherine. Sorry.

08:10

Simon styles.

08:16

Thank you, Mr. Stiles. I shall add you to the list but it will be after I've heard from everybody else who's registered. And yes, sir, in the blue t shirt.

08:25

Do you

08:29

Sorry.

08:36

Okay, and I shall hear you after Mr. Stiles.

08:47

As I said, when I hear you, each party who wishes to speak, there's a microphone here at the front, other than those at the front table than anybody else, as you're called, you can come up here to make your presentation at the microphone. If you feel that that's a little bit intimidating, which some of these circumstances we will recognize that the roving microphones arrived, just put your hand up and that will be brought to you.

09:12

Before we hear from any of the speakers,

09:15

can I ask you to tell me for the applicant today?

09:19

Yes, good evening, sir. My name is Amy Sterling and my Senior Associate Solicitor at Pinsent Masons representing the applicant. I'm joined on my right by Mr. James Hartley bond, who's a project development director at low carbon. And I'm joined to tamale by Miss Ali leader who's the DCO and planning leader at ATAP.

09:39

Thank you very much.

09:51

I had had notification from Western the district council that they weren't going to attend the meeting, but they would potentially be viewing it online.

10:00

The

10:01

purpose isn't for any of the consoles or the formal organizations to actually make representations here. So it's more for them to hear what said rather than anything else.

10:12

So I will now turn on the

10:15

invite the representations from those interested parties who have given the requisite notice to speak to firstly, ask nifh parish council

10:29

you don't have anybody from this

10:33

Okay. Fair enough.

10:37

That case if I can turn to

10:43

get my order again

10:50

yes, no, Martin and get Burton parish console.

10:55

Can you just identify who you are and what position you hold in the council.

11:03

I'm Stephen Spence, Chair of Margate, Burton parish council. Okay, thank you very much. We as a paradise, I'm just about to start my timer. I just wanted to know who you were first. First of all, so, at each point i before you start your presentation, I'll ask you to identify yourself and who you are, what your representation is. And that's as much for other people who are not either here or who are watching the live stream or anything of that nature.

11:36

Right.

11:37

Sorry, just two seconds till I get my time.

11:42

Right. Okay, so we will have five minutes and the timer starts No. Martin Geet Burton Paris counts log concerned over the concentration of solar parks and accompanying infrastructure in one area. On behalf of the parishioners, we would like the planning Inspectorate to consider the applications on these solar farms as a collective and not as an individual application.

12:07

In the gate Burton parish, we have one solar farm and button right up to it Martin

12:15

boundaries is the quest Burton foresight. As well as that there's a very narrow window

12:24

through both parishes which all four of these solar farm

12:31

applicants chosen as the way to connect to the scotum.

12:41

To cut into the national grid

12:48

it we don't like the look of this. I've been looking at the shared development consent order provisions on the website. And in July there was some mission 8.2 The insurer interrelationships with other national significant infrastructure projects, and I gather Westburn have been

13:12

talking to

13:14

gay Bernard with Dr. Westburn cotton and the Tilbury farms as regards trying to find some way of combing through that particular bottleneck, you know, to get to the cotton connection point.

13:32

It will create a lot of mess to you looking at the 10 meter wide strip, all coming in to one point round the Trent port area of Martin.

13:47

And

13:49

the

13:51

one of the points said the grid connection with West Britain project partially overlaps stroke crosses the cable current corridors for gait Burton and cotton connect to connect to the west Burton substation. Well, I come from an engineering background. And I mean, this is bad practice and creating a hazard.

14:11

We'd like to know what provision the West Burton applicants are

14:18  
doing to

14:21  
liaise with the other organizations that are applying here.

14:32  
Thank you.

14:35  
Yep.

14:40  
Conclusion. Thank you for keeping in.

14:44  
Brief and short, we do believe that the scale and number of these applications in a narrow window of time is overwhelming to residents of this area, and it doesn't enable them to properly engage in the planning process. Thank you. Thank you very much.

15:12  
Okay, thank you very much. Could I then hear from starting by Sue parish council? And again, could you just identify who you are and your position in council? Good evening, my name is Carol Gilbert. I am the Chairman of Stoughton Barstow parish council.

15:35  
Okay, thank you very much. Your five minutes start? No, thank you.

15:40  
Okay. There's there's going to be circuit a million solar panels in this particular gate Burton site.

15:50  
There is a distinct lack of plans, detailed plans, that makes commenting very, very difficult. There must have already been some form of planning been taken place in order to know how and where to accommodate these plan or panels and the best orage.

16:15  
Where will these panels be manufactured? If you're talking a million roughly, for gate that and you're talking another five or 6 million to be included into the other three

16:30  
developments,



16:33

there is a distinct lack of

16:36

details in any of the landscape planning.

16:42

This is more like an outline planning application.

16:48

It makes commenting very difficult. And I am assuming that this will be subsequently sold on possibly prior to development, which will mean that then the incoming developer will have to submit plans which will then have to go through the planning process. I cannot understand why these plans aren't in place now. And go through this particular process and through the DCO.

17:19

There is no upper limit for the capacity within the DCO. What will this mean for the other developments that are going to be coming through because my understanding is that it will eventually max out the connection at kottam.

17:38

Who will have then be able to do upgrade the capacity grid connection at cotton

17:48

as my understanding is low carb and are an investment company, not a developer.

17:54

So I don't know whether you can comment on that

18:02

it's really difficult for the general public and the parish councils to comment on these applications. We are not development professionals. We're not planning professionals.

18:16

It's very difficult to assess the scale.

18:20

We need a map that shows each of these four developments to actually say this is the scale of land that is going to be used

18:36

and I think that's as much as I need I'll know there is one more thing the

18:42

comments regarding mental health they're quite dismissive for the application

18:51

being surrounded by panels of glass is not going to be a very nice situation to be in and I don't think we should be subject to this at all

19:13

thank you very much

19:23

okay, next on my list I have been filling him parish council

19:36

thank you very much. If you can just before you start, let me know who you are and what position you hold in the in the parish? Yes. Good evening. I'm Margaret O'Grady. I'm the chair of filling in parish meeting.

20:02

policy is a parish meeting rather than Council. Okay, you have got your five minutes and they start. No, thank you. Thank you on behalf of filling in parish meeting, I would like to make an observation that among all the technical topics of environmental concerns, Energy, Agriculture, etc, as well as the details of the content of the DCO. What appears to be missing is any consideration of the people of the area. In terms of both benefit to the community, there appears to be the possibility of a limited fund, but this does not address having deprived people in the area of livelihoods and landscape. It is therefore not surprising that as far as I understand, there is scant support for the gate Burton scheme on any or any of the other large scale solar projects, and overwhelming opposition from every parish that has expressed a view representing 18 or 19 villages. Government Strategy papers and national policy statements all refer to the need to consider community impacts. And the Skidmore review recommends that projects are not imposed on local communities. But the end CIP process feels like a machine that the community has no real say in the applicant has been through its consultation process covered in the detailed consultation report, which runs to 338 pages. The executive summary alone is eight pages and describes the approach taken to comply with statutory duties. The executive summary concludes that the applicant has considered and applied all relevant advice and guidance. Nowhere are the results of that consultation mentioned in easily digestible terms such as how many respondents are supportive or in opposition to the proposed development. The consultation report describes in forensic detail how people were made aware what events were held, who told and when it sets out, the application has established us through a process and then have done what they said they will do. There are details on the numbers of people attending the number of website clicks and engagements, there is line by line detail of the issues and concerns raised and in general where the applicant believes such issues are addressed in their extensive material, there is an age breakdown of who provided the feedback from 142 received which is a tiny fraction of people in this area. Despite all this work and all these pages, nowhere are their answers to simple questions such as What has been the effective reach

of consultation, how well is the proposed development understood in the area and what public support is there for such a scheme?

22:59

It appears that the purpose of the consultation process has purely been to tick the box or consultation rather than engage with the community at any meaningful level

23:10

to ensure that the project is not imposed on the community, could I therefore ask the applicant directly what local support they feel this scheme has a May I ask the examining authority to what extent local engagement understanding support or opposition to the proposed development have a bearing on this examination process? And also may I ask the room who is in support of the solar schemes? Thank you

23:40

Thank you very much

23:56

next, I turned to

23:59

a representative from 7000 acres who's going to make their representations is needed to confirm who that's going to be yes it's myself to yourself but and are you separately making your own representations? I won't be no sir but I would

24:19

mind using some of my five minutes if possible because this is a little little over maybe about five and a half or something that wants to take us in 1000 acres if that's okay with you.

24:32

Okay, well let's see how we get along. If you can be as quick as you can. I'll be a little bit flexible. I'm not going to pull down that but we do have a lot of people to get through. And there's a lot of people who need to hear from and only a limited time tonight. But yes, before you start sorry. Yes.

24:52

Blow did not put in airing for myself. All the microphones with

25:00

We're certainly and thank you for bringing that up. If anybody else is having difficulties hearing then these people speak loudly and clearly into their microphones. But so we're going to hear from 7000 acres and your time starts now.

25:16

Thank you. The first point is that there is no issue specific hearing, which considers overall health and well being in the context of communities impacted by this and other sort of developments at such scale

within a small region. We feel this is a particularly important issue that has not been sufficiently well explored. green space in order to play an important role in health and well being will be consumed as a scale and rate never seen before in the UK. We would therefore welcome the opportunity of an issue specific hearing to consider this topic in detail.

25:53

The second point is about the quality of material produced by the applicant and the extent to which the applicant appears to be able to provide their own partial evidence with which to convince the examining authority of their case, I'll provide a few examples. The first day of concern we have is a statement of need, which chooses to avoid a description of what output solar produces and overall terms 9% 11% In the UK, this is not properly explained anywhere in the document to be the upper limit of the scheme's annual output, thereby reducing 500 megawatts of capacity to 55 megawatts on average. The applicant also avoids any description of how the output of solar is mismatched, with demand producing most when the country needs least, and nothing when the country needs it most. It is therefore spectacularly selective of for the applicant to conclude that solely contributes to the UK security of supply emitting to answer the the obvious question, what happens when the sun doesn't shine. The statement of need doesn't describe the fundamental problems of solar causes by having a mismatch between its output and the demand curve curve on the need for curtailment le been switched off by the grid operator, because there is more power being generated than can be used. The statement of need includes a graph of solar gain in the UK to describe the area as having high levels of solar irradiation. When patiently the UK is one of the lowest areas of solar gain worldwide. The statement of need includes a sorry, I've read that sorry the statement of need it provides a selective presentation of government policy. Despite mentioning the very recent ambition of 70 gigawatts of solar, there is no reference to the consistent position over many years to require efficient land use, community engagement and delivery of rooftop solar.

27:55

such tricks are designed to create an impression of benefit or support. The statement of need presents itself as the evidence base to justify the scheme but it is fundamentally flawed document. within various chapters of the environmental statement, the applicant has made careful selection of its study areas and ranges of impact, to enable it to conclude that the effects of development on minor in nature. For instance, the applicant has chosen for its landscape of self assessment an eight kilometer radius for the main study area, which then specifically excludes a Lincoln cliff area of great landscape value just beyond this boundary. By contrast, the applicant has chosen the whole of West Lindsay and Basset law almost 1800 kilometers squared to consider the socio economic effects, avoiding any reference to severe deprivation in Gainsborough, the main population center immediately adjacent to the scheme only three kilometers away. In the same chapter, the environmental statement the applicant has chosen extremely narrow reference area down to 500 meters to consider the other impacts, such as the impact on amenities or residential properties. These examples demonstrate that the applicant has drawn up his own terms of reference, and details of methodology to be able to arrive at conclusions from the impact assessments that suit its objectives with the words like limited or minor impact. such tactics appear to continue in responses to the first written questions raised by the examining authority. The applicant was asked about the Skidmore review directly. The applicant's reply includes the quote that

the review calls for a rooftop revolution to achieve so full scale deployment of solar the applicant then describes how the government's 70 gigawatt target would require 110 such similar

29:48

Sorry, I'll be as quick as I can. 110 such similar 500 megawatt schemes to gate Burton avoiding the opportunity to inform the examining authority of potential rooftop solar could deliver the applicant

30:00

also Nick get neglects to mention the reviews call for a clear land use plan given the intense pressure and faces, the applicant is asked directly to describe the energy production capacity of the scheme and again fails to mention the nine to Lambson yield factor for solar in the UK or any reference to mismatch between when solar produces power and when it is needed. In conclusion, the summary the conclusion at this point is that the applicant must not be allowed to take the examining authority this process and the people distribution for falls by providing such unreliable evidence. Thank you.

31:05

Okay, sorry, could I then turn to Mr. Johnson?

31:21

Good evening, Andy Johnson, a local resident.

31:27

Okay, your five minutes start not? Thank you. I have three comments with this application around the impact on local communities wellbeing, social standing and the economic effects. My first point Whilst this is a separate application, there are several applications that will be joined with this one resulting in the largest solar farm in the UK, and one of the largest in the world are the solar farms have been positioned away from the area of habitation and minimizing effects from the development. Information on the effects with this scale have not been undertaken, has not been previously required. On the basis that no data is available, the social, economic and wellbeing of the communities housed within close proximity of the development. What independent work has been undertaken from the applicants on what does the planning application require? My second point, decommissioning at the end of the life of the solar industrialization, the cost of the decommissioning would have to be met. Will the cost be met by the developers as part of the application or pass down the ownership chain? So the ownership chain cease trading? How will this be covered? Or will it be passed back to the landowner or local council? Can the applicant detail the projected decommissioning cost and where the responsibility will lay for this application? Or will they expect to consider a decommissioning bond prior to starting the project to reduce impact on the future Community Living adjacent to the development of a third point, local land, the method of measuring the potential productivity of agricultural land has been based upon a grading system that dates back to 1988. It is acknowledged that this measurement is no longer accurate due to farming methods, climate change, etc. There is a phrase being BMV best and most versatile, however, this phrase as a little science behind it. Food security is now known as a weapon of war and around the world we're all experiencing these effects. With these facts in mind in focus, the real money measurement should be based upon yield from the land and the type of crops produced, does the

expectation acknowledged that the old fashioned way is still fit for purpose? Or Should an analysis of the yields and UK security been taken into consideration when considering this application? Thank you

34:07

Thank you very much.

34:10

Neck lectern to Claire Ella, please.

34:23

Could I just apologize if my presentation is a little disjointed? I only find that on my lunch break. I've only got five minutes, I just had to cross through loads of stuff. So if it's disjointed, I apologize. As I said in the introduction, there is an opportunity to provide a written response to have your oral presentation to have your oral presentation somewhat

34:44

constructed, then whenever you come to that deadline three, which is in the first then submit the full submission at that stage. Okay, thank you and then I can read that.

34:56

Okay, I'm Claire Ella on the complementary health practitioner who was born lives and where

35:00

Looks locally.

35:02

Okay, thank you.

35:05

I'm asking you not to allow profit seeking investors quoting Net Zero 2050 to ride roughshod unchallenged over the large number of rural communities in the area of Lincolnshire, which will suffer more for the next two generations. If this in the connected proposals go through repeated requests for the projects to be considered as one to make it easier for locals to marshal their time and resources and objecting to them have just been ignored. As a direct result. People are not engaging in the formal examination progress process, because they feel there is no point is a done deal. The 1000s of pages of documents to read to comply with overlap overlapping deadlines for the poor projects make it unfairly prejudicial to those trying to earn a living and whose daily lives will be affected for the next 65 years by the decisions whether to allow the projects. It's compounded by their difficulties in finding information, I still cannot find the vegetation removal plan for this project, consisting of 13 sheets referred to in shedule 17 of the draft DCO as amended can't find it. The effects on mental health in addition to a feeling of hopelessness about the outcome are becoming apparent in our communities. The worry about the drop in house prices, and already the reality of house sales falling through. Where is there a detailed evaluation of the effects on house prices of the proximity of the construction routes in batteries, cable corridors with the potential for EMF issues and being surrounded by fields of panels.

36:30

concerns of traffic disruption, especially during the construction periods. The additional project related traffic combined with all of the road closures and restrictions. Has any research been done on the compact combined projects, effects on school bus routes, postbox collection times postal delivery routes, Courier and home supermarket deliveries the already almost impossible rural homecare worker schedules, especially early in the morning and at the end of the day. Has Lincolnshire highways been consulted about any plan to major works in the area to ensure that any alternative routes to the ones affected by the projects will not be further affected by planned closures or works.

37:08

Gate Burton construction period first quarter 2025 The first quarter 2028 is in fact 36 months and not the 24 months repeatedly referred to as the worst case scenario. So all of the negative effects of the construction period on the local population from this project, plus the community of effects of the other three projects will last half as long again, how can the applicant conclude that a longer construction period would have less impact on the community? You raise that very point in your written questions, sir. And the applicants response to page 141 merely acknowledged that the post proposed timescale would result in a continuation of defects identified, but for their purposes, they viewed 24 months as a worst case scenario. So that's what's applied in their predictions of impacts on us. In Table 14.7, under does the proposal prioritize it encourage walking the applicants ticked? Yes, I fail to see how anyone could reach that conclusion. Just because there are very few public rights of way included in the works area around Martin Gilbert and William how does that translate to the effects on the promotion of walking automatically big deemed negligible. The road from Willingham to gate Burton is a popular walking, running, cycling and horse riding route which connects public rights away. Parts of it has been the route on the annual stoke Community Bike Ride for many years, chosen for its family friendly safety safety levels. It's a single carriageway road with passive places boarded along the majority of its length by mature hedges. The proposal to use it as a construction route would result in a significant effect on the health, wellbeing and exercise opportunities of local residents. The panel's mounting polls, inverters and transformers will be recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice and market conditions at the time. Does this mean that if the cheapest option available at the time of decommissioning is landfill, that's where they will go? Where is any enforceable provision for the applicant or its successors in title to recycle as much of the apparatus as is technically possible at the time of decommissioning regardless of cost? Otherwise, it makes a mockery of any arguments about the beneficial carbon footprint of the scheme. How will it be decided? Whether the medium voltage cambric cables will be left in situ at decommissioning? How can leaving these in the earth to rot decompose affect the surrounding land and its future views be justified? Finally, another concern is the cumulative effect of the influx of project workers on local, temporary or short term accommodation. There is a dire shortage of rental property in the area and any project staff taking rentals will exacerbate that problem, leaving locals with no affordable rental options. I've already questioned in a written submission, the way in which the applicant concludes that there is no effect on the local hotel b&b accommodation sector by the workers from this and the combined projects due to their selective use of data. But where is the analysis of short term rentals in the applicants documents

40:00

There are of course, many bigger picture issues the safety of battery storage, the true figures or likely energy production, the ancillary use of batteries can rent out storage or inclusion, National Grid. Okay? What I'm asking you to consider is why the financial, physical, mental and emotional health of 1000s

40:17  
of local residents

40:20  
and the land and surrounding countryside should be compromised and sacrificed. But the benefits of foreign investors with little compelling evidence that 10,000 acres of agricultural land on sold under solar panels is the best solution for our need for carbon fuel alternatives. Thank you.

40:52  
Thank you very much.

40:55  
To Michael hair.

41:02  
No, we don't have Mr. Hair.

41:06  
Shooting in do you want to come forward and speak at all?

41:20  
Could you just confirm who you are in your interest? And then we'll start

41:25  
snooping. I'm, I'm a fourth generation farmer. Farming grade three land. Okay. Thank you very much. Your five minutes start? No, thank you. As I've said, our family farm bomb, mainly grade three land. This has been dismissed as

41:48  
not useful.

41:51  
The demands on land as a finite resource are exceedingly dire.

42:00  
We're not making land anymore. There is a finite amount.

42:05  
Food should be a primary source of use of this land.



42:13

There's also the demands on the environment.

42:17

rewilding all sorts of fancy liberal ideas from people that have no idea of farming needs and how their food is produced.

42:32

Let's be clear, this is not green energy. This is far from green energy. This is profiteering off the backs of local political attempts.

42:47

If all these

42:49

solar panels are being brought into the country, presumably from a country that has very low human and animal welfare,

43:02

and probably a powering that management money manufacturer, by coal powered means,

43:11

yes, we need solar in the right place, on rooftops, and warehouses or new builds, not in rural communities.

43:26

Another problem that hasn't been mentioned is the fire risk of all these solar panels. We had a fire on farmland last year, it was frightening. You've only got to look at Canada, Hawaii to see what devastation this can cause.

43:46

We had a small field fire last year. And that was frightening enough, it required three fire tenders. And a whole load of local farmers turned out to plow up the land and stop the fires progress.

44:02

The battery storage, the construction work, and my mental health is certainly suffering from the thought of all that, and why our four projects has suddenly been landed on us out of nowhere, and they all need to be

44:26

looked at as one and how on earth we're meant to keep up with all the information. I have no planning background or experience. I'm a farmer. But my daughter who is an environmental consultant says this scheme is rotten from the start.

44:52

I wasn't going to speak because it's a very daunting experience. But I truly believe this is wrong.

45:00

I want a healthy planet. I want food to be produced healthily. But this is far from

45:15

there is no joint up energy policy from this government or previous governments, they have suddenly thought, oh my God, we've set these targets. The world is burning up, we've got to do something. But this is certainly not the way to go.

45:35

Thank you

45:45

I would just draw attention to Mr. Belton

45:49

your camera is on and you are

45:53

to us.

45:58

If you are looking to speak, then I will hear you at the end.

46:03

After I've heard from everybody else, and I will come to you at that point. Thank you very much. Thank you

46:16

Okay, the next person I have is Katrina Morton.

46:22

I can't turn him off if he wants to turn his camera off, then. Mr. Belton, if you want to turn your camera off

46:33

thank you very much.

46:46

Chicken no to that one.

46:50

Katrina Morrison.

46:54

That sounds Yeah. Can I just say who you are, first of all, yes, I'm Katrina more than just a resident.

47:03

And forgive me, I've had to do the same again. Just quickly. Local resident? Yes, yes. Okay. And, again, you've got five minutes to go through. But if your

47:14

comments stretch to longer than that, then just continue them to the five minutes and then submit your written submission of your oral presentation today in that forum, and then I can read that okay.

47:29

Your time starts now. Thank you. My comments may be repeating some of the observations which had been made, but my particular concern is the cumulative and adverse impact or effect on the landscape character in the visual immunities.

47:46

So the examining authority in the planning inspectorate is clearly aware of the other nationally significant infrastructure projects that have been proposed for Wessling state as well as around the county.

47:58

The planning Inspectorate for expediency and administration has facilitated meetings where representatives of all the applicants have been present. Pinsent, Masons represent all four applicants and in suggestions have said that they will work collaboratively together where possible, and the rationale given to ensure that the responses are aligned, the same information is submitted into each examination, and the risk for inconsistency is reduced.

48:26

There is a clear interrelationship with the applicant and the other national infrastructure projects.

48:32

All four proposals are being examined by different examining authority who will only have responsibility for examining their own case. in isolation, all of these projects may meet this requirement. However should the proposal be given the green light would result in many 1000s of acres of agriculture and recreation London, West Lindsay being covered in millions of solar panels, the reconfiguration of a landscape for at least 40 years.

49:01

My observation is that the clear inter inter relationships between these projects and the cumulative impact of them all is not being considered as a whole should the solar projects be approved. This will not simply be a case of Westlands area of Lincolnshire taking one for the team in terms of solar and our

contribution to energy or carbon reduction, but apparently becoming the solar farm face of the UK. And in representation produced which is by the solar media. They've identified that the biggest capacity hosted in any region is the East Midlands, which we are in

49:39

which the biggest in the UK, much of this seems to be for us, and I think it's a disproportionate burden in the communities of West Lindsey have to bear.

49:50

I believe this would result in the industrialization of this rural landscape, the wide open spaces of country landscape and joy by myself or the residents and visitors to the area. It will

50:00

bid last received panels for 40 years plus hedging that over the years will be allowed to grow to five meters, fencing around areas that would cut off access to wildlife and restrict their movement and significant impact on bruisers from the A 1500 and the 1398 areas of great landscape value. I have travelled the cliff road for many years and he's genuinely uplifting to be able to look out across the valley and see the landscape and skyline lone

50:30

taxi Skydance three at PPG at paragraph 005 states green infrastructure is a natural capital asset that provides multiple benefits as a range of scales for communities these benefits can include enhance wellbeing, outdoor recreation access, enhance biodiversity and landscape food energy production, urban cooling and then the management of flood risk. This natural asset we have and benefit from will not be enhanced by significant period of construction and millions of solar panels in the National Policy Statement in one paragraphs 4.2 point six it says the Secretary of State should consider how accumulation of an interrelationship between effects may affect the environment the economy or community as a whole even though there may be acceptable when considered on an individual basis and with mitigation measures in place. I hope the Secretary will do this in concert in the impact of the four nationally significant infrastructure projects in West Lindsey Okay.

51:56

Okay, thank you very much. Next person I have on my list is Michael Dover.

52:14

Hi, I'm Michael Gerber and they're visiting to explain.

52:22

Okay, thank you. And

52:25

yours five minutes start now. Solar PV has its place in the energy mix of the future. But I believe it belongs on all suitable rooftops, providing a more egalitarian contribution to resident occupier and the grid.

52:39

This would leave valuable fertile arable farmland to produce crops and help toward achieving a measure of food security, which is currently highlighted by the ongoing conflict in Ukraine imposed Russian embargoes Russian grain export ban and a Blackberry blockade. And to this the specter of a 30% decrease in the annual global rice harvest, which will inevitably force higher prices on the international cereal and grain markets. In fact, India has announced banning rice exports altogether.

53:12

Therefore, the use of high yielding fertile land for 60 years plus for inefficient intermittent solar PV schemes would impact on the UK 's ability to offset its reliance on imported foodstuffs at a time of supply volatility, high shipping charges and strain supply chains impacting on UK food security.

53:35

This scheme, along with three other huge solar schemes are planted in an area in close proximity to each other. And if one's past, even all of them past the impact on the area, towns, villages, communities, even the city of Lincoln will be impacted. Along with the landscape roads, while light countryside and the way of life it will be huge.

54:00

There will be a loss of traditional agricultural jobs as well as agricultural engineering farming supplies not just locally but also nationwide.

54:10

The possibility of jobs in the solar scheme. Once construction is complete, it's quite remote, most being contracted out resulting in a probable loss in the local sector of Employment Security.

54:25

The construction period is measured in years, it will entail driving metal pilings for around 66 hours per week, with no noise decibel levels well in excess of 90 degrees.

54:40

decibels, which will have a potential impact on century health, physical health and mental health. Dirt, dust and detritus matter will become airborne pollutants, long term sites potentially affecting respiratory health and will also be counted from site to road pathways and properties.

55:00

The proposed location of some of the construction sites near to residential homes and water courses should seriously be reconsidered.

55:09

But it's also a probability of glenon Glint and glare but particularly on the canopy lane, to be 1241.

55:19

The exponential increase in daily traffic and vehicle trips including abnormal loads HDv, light goods, vehicles, buses, vans, cars and plump vehicles will adversely impact the area daily with the additional wear and tear on rural roads that are not designed for such weight or volume of traffic being subjected to damage along with pedestrians, paths, curbs and verges.

55:45

Flooding

55:47

certainly part of the scheme lies within an area designated as having a high risk of surface water flooding. There is a fear that with the compacted ground and the concentrated runoff from many panels, this will exasperate the problem.

56:02

swales which are designed to carry away the surface water the proposal the site probably to the upper wisdom, would in heavy rain remove the margin of safety that now exists and will possibly breach the banks causing internal flooding to adjacent properties on KEXP B lane, some of which have flooded in the recent past.

56:24

battery storage facilities, the danger lithium batteries and runaway fires are difficult control or extinguish doubts exist that Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue have the manpower and resources to adequately deal with the many battery storage facilities planned in the area.

56:41

And it seems that the purpose of BSS or battery storage facilities is probably arbitrage, which is buying cheap and selling expensive charging batteries from the grid cheaply and selling it back to the grid at top rate it is claimed it is spare electrical inputs surely if a demand if there is a demand than the grid generation would then produce that electro electricity so it being bought as opposed to bottling origin of the equipment mostly made in China and manufactured in China and that is dangerous into coal fired generation with China accounted for 30% of global co2 emissions. China controls an estimated 90% of rare earth mining 87% of what are your comments your conclusion please

57:33

I will I will come to the conclusion what I will say at the end is

57:39

I asked you to consider the scheme and please remember that this area's collectively our home the place we chose to live surrounded by nature wildlife rural farms and the changing agricultural seasons. We asked you to consider that

57:53

and other more reliable alternatives to generation and I will submit the rest of it by letter.

58:10

Okay, thank you very much. I know you have that Gavin Gatlin.

58:26

Just pressing as low just tell me who you are and what your interest is. My name is Gavin Gatlin and I live along KEXP Elaine

58:41

Okay, thank you very much and just get to that. Five minutes start now. Thank you. I'm also speaking for Denise gutless, Frank Clark and Andrew Gilchrist, who also live along Catesby lane and also my business which is cited along case belay.

59:00

In all my correspondence with gate Burton solar energy, highlighting my concerns for both my family personally and also how the development would affect my business. Not one question has been answered with a solid or tangible answer, but only when we advise you to become an interested party and to put my concerns to the planning inspector.

59:19

We are now at that stage and still no answers have been advised by gate burn energy Park. My business requires licensing laws and during the consultative construction process and beyond these licenses, licensing conditions will be breached. And in addition, the foundations of my business, which is built on will be compromised by this project being allowed.

59:42

In addition, flooding is a major concern along the XP Lane area. But again, although a site inspection made by gait Burton, we've had no feedback since.

59:53

Along with the objections made here this evening with no support for the scheme. I feel that there has been a total lack of transparency

1:00:00

See engagement and a proper consultation process from gayford energy.

1:00:09

To all the community the consultation process has felt like a tick box exercise. In addition, I would like to say this project should be looked at as a whole and not as separate projects.

1:00:24

We no no more now than we did once the scheme was first announced absolutely nothing.

1:00:45

Thank you very much, Mr. Gatlin. Did I understand you to say that that was on behalf of Denise Gatlin as well too, so, Denise isn't going to speak.

1:00:57

Okay, thank you very much. In that case, I'll move to Don Johnson.

1:01:17

Can you just turn your microphone on and your five minutes starts now. The project on the three effects in this area involve the extensive use of agricultural land, which is entirely unprecedented and out of proportion to any other project anywhere else in the UK.

1:01:35

The developer has notably failed to show that he has looked at other brownfield alternatives. And given that this is necessity under policy declarations, shouldn't the developers be required to do so?

1:01:48

Could the developer be requested to demonstrate the land stroke power generation ratio of other renewable energy as a component of the process, given that land is such a limited resource and solar is particularly land intensive.

1:02:04

When I was driving through this area yesterday, I witnessed farmers harvesting fields upon fields of mainly grain based crops. The breadth and the scope of this area, which has previously been used and is now being used for poor food production may be seen if you look from the top of the Jurassic cliff. We see these crops every year. So the locals are actually aware of how fertile this terrain is. Would it not make sense to ask the developer to submit figures from a reliable independent source about the yields over the last five years in order to compare the project the agricultural land, especially in light of recent events across the world

1:02:48

visual impact the zone of theoretical visibility is discussed in Chapter 10 of the environmental statement Volume One, where it is said that visited vegetation is expected to have a significant impact on visibility of a flat landscape.

1:03:07

It will be at least a quarter of the developments lifespan before the residents view from the flat fields with the sections of 3.5 million 3.5 meters solar panels is obstructed.

1:03:20

The VISTA from the famed Jurassic Cliff which stretches kilometers can never be obscured or diminished, though due to the flatness of the area. This meaning the scale and the vastness of the solar panels can never be hidden to the people who are driving from Gainsborough to Lincolnshire.

1:03:41



Moving trees and hedgerows should be avoided according to the national planning strategy. Why has this developer asked within the development consent order to have many kilometres of hedges removed?

1:03:54

Now that the developments are happening, and in the planning process virtually simultaneously, it is impossible for the general public including myself to keep up with the process, online resources and videos to review.

1:04:10

The hearings do not reduce the amount of time required to keep up. I have spoken to many working friends and neighbors who have serious concerns about the developments that find it difficult fifth difficult to comprehend or find the time to stay involved in the process. The relevant local planning and planning agency the developers have counseled the public have nothing. We have to deal with this process by themselves and we have to navigate our way through it's very disengaging, and would seem to be a little predigested.

1:04:44

Humor to the effects.

1:04:47

It has been mentioned that the examiners of all four projects will look at the cumulative effect, but it doesn't give an indication of how this will be done. How can this be done when they are being examined individually?

1:05:00

When this is being examined, I note that council talks of past precedents in mind of that how can we compare anything when there is no precedent for the size, scale and land grab of this solar industrialization.

1:05:16

The relevant local authority examine projects under local planning with a goal of enhancing the region's social, economic and environmental conditions. The local communities rural lifestyle, which is why we reside here will be lost due to this development, which will also cause the communities social activities and general well being to break down. There is no president to draw on because of the size and scope of these developments. Where is the regard for the welfare of the local community, the neighborhood and where is the assessment regarding this?

1:05:50

The developers claim there is no proof that solar farms

1:05:54

have an impact on home prices. Yet there is no precedent for 10,000 acres of solar arrays being built in a six mile radius. It stands to reason that since Pinsky will choose to live in rural areas, these develop

and will have an adverse financial effect on all the locals. People will be uprooted because the young will go to live in other rural areas and undeveloped areas leaving the older residents to fend for themselves. Who will care for them. New people won't want to live here.

1:06:43

Thank you very much. The next person I have on my list is Patricia Mitchell.

1:07:06

That's okay.

1:07:11

Yes, me okay. I can hear you. Yes, that's fine. If you tell me who you are, first of all on what your interest is. Yes. I'm Patricia Mitchell, a local resident local resident.

1:07:23

I'm speaking on behalf of myself and Helen Mitchell.

1:07:37

Okay, is Helen Mitchell then not going to speak later? She's not going to speak now. Okay, thank you.

1:07:44

Thank you very much. Okay. Your five minutes starts now. Thank you.

1:07:49

I concur with everything that's been said so far by all of the speakers.

1:07:55

I wish to discuss another matter.

1:07:59

still relevant

1:08:01

concern concerning tourism, and the fact that Lincoln is steeped in great architecture, history and heritage in abundance, with a rich culture of food festivals, and family businesses, hotels, local Bnbs, shops, transport and more, which depend on tourism and visitors. The earthworks which are the remains of a medieval village, gate burden, and history dictates most likely further archaeological remains are hidden beneath the extensive areas farmland where the proposed solar project is to be sited.

1:08:38

There were over 50 respondents who objected to the potential adverse impact on tourism.

1:08:46

in Lincolnshire, specific concerns were raised about the impact on small nudges Bnbs and hotels, fishing holiday parks and shops.

1:08:56

Gate Burton's response to this or low carb in response to this was the income impact on tourism was scoped out of the socio economic chapter. Due to the unlikely impact of the scheme and cumulative schemes. There is only one receptor located near the site, which is the landmark trust chateau.

1:09:16

This building set had been renovated and now provided accommodation for two people. The impact of the scheme during the construction period will be negligible on this receptor, and no impact during operation. The next neighbors of SEPTA located two kilometers away is the Black Swan guesthouse in Manhattan. The receptors are not to be negatively impacted by the scheme or cumulative schemes and may benefit from it during the construction period to an increase in occupancy, I have to say that the occupancy is more than likely the people who are coming to work for you.

1:09:48

Furthermore, the study have gone off. Furthermore, study of the Southwest Research Company on the impact of renewable energy farms on visitors to Cornwall 2030

1:10:00

even found that renewable energy parks solar and wind had no negative impact on tourism, and may even have had a positive impact as sustainability becomes an element of consideration for tourists to an opt in for a destination. The study found that just 6% of visitors to Cornwall had a negative attitude towards renewable energy parks. The study also found that only 2% of visitors are less likely to visit the county again in the future. As a result with the presence of wind and solar farms. However, 4% of visitors are more likely to visit which is true, which is likely to be as a result of those that find such developments attractive. And more importantly, those that consider the county to be a more positive place as a result with the presence of renewable energy farms. And its support for the environmental cause. I have to say that using something from 2013 is in my view, not a very good way to present something

1:10:56

the

1:10:58

largest solar farm I know at that time and possibly wasn't even around at that time was scopic at 250 acres. I think if you were to ask any of the people who live in Cornwall today how they would feel about having 10,000 acres just in their tiny county

1:11:15

would find her opponent just as I find this scheme

1:11:19

thank you

1:11:49

then turn to Martin Brown

1:12:01

My name is Martin Brown I'm a local resident

1:12:06

wasn't actually planning to speak so bear with me because I've got I feel I must at this point

1:12:13

perfect perfectly okay but you again you will have a time limit of five minutes and I will give you a indication of when you have 30 seconds left to go if you're running that long but your five minutes starts now. Okay.

1:12:28

Much has been said on the subject of the efficiency or lack of it of solar scheme see 12% or thereabouts of actual output from the scheme over a vast area there'll be taken up by these

1:12:41

poor projects which are going to potentially be thrust upon us

1:12:50

the construction is going to take perhaps three years during which time traffic is going to be horrific. There's gonna be a phenomenal amount of dust and noise

1:13:02

and additional

1:13:06

hazards for traffic as well from behind me hinted up the road that I live on is

1:13:14

going to be subject to some fairly horrific and Clinton glare risk down the bottom on the on the bend which I hope you'll take the time to take a look at from slightly uphill from the corner.

1:13:27

The

1:13:32

this is productive land around here last year was a phenomenal year for grain with double what they normally expect this year. Not so good apparently. But farming cyclic.

1:13:46

Taking 10,000 acres of pounds of food production cannot be a great step given the current war in Ukraine. Loss of rice production in the Far East.

1:13:58

And Putin's cont continuing

1:14:03

warmongering in that area.

1:14:07

That battery storage is another thing. What's the primary use of the battery storage? And how long does it actually hold the back that power? That

1:14:22

give us give me an indication of that.

1:14:29

Carry that I'm sorry, sorry. Yeah, I will deal with during the examination certainly a match or is it or is it a more suited to balancing the books rather than balancing the grid.

1:14:45

The best also require water supply for firefighting.

1:14:51

Now, I'm not aware of whether there's a tanked water supply being proposed. But what's the durability?

1:15:00

duration that that will hold out for in the event of a major best fire.

1:15:05

We know that bats aren't prone to bursting into flames, but should that happen? That bug is to put out.

1:15:17

And, finally, where on earth is Defra in this whole process?

1:15:42

Okay, thank you very much, Mr. Brown.

1:15:45

I currently Mr. Summers

1:15:59

as others if you just put the microphone on, and then just tell me who you are and your interest before we start.

1:16:07

Sorry, I didn't hear that. Sorry, who you are and your interest in the application? Oh, yes. My name is Jeff summers. I

1:16:17

have lived in the area worked in the area all of my life 73 years that has been involved in agriculture from start to finish.

1:16:26

I've worked as an agricultural worker, and agronomist, I spent hours and hours sampling soils across the county under the counties. And so I'm thoroughly ofay with three B soils. In actual fact, thank you very much. I just wanted a brief indication of who you are and what your interest was. Well, we will have five minutes tonight. And I will start your five minutes when you can say to me what you wish in that five minutes. And I will give you a 32nd check mark, just whenever it's time to conclude. So your five minutes starts now. Thank you.

1:17:02

So I have a written representation, ready for tomorrow have a session too. But I'm not using that night. This is just off the cuff. But I'm talking about this evening, I'm referring to justification in such a ludicrous proposal. And the reason

1:17:19

I find it ludicrous is because of the situation that we are in involved in worldwide in terms of fires, heat destruction. If you take Spain last year, they hardly produced an olive harvest due to drought. And this food production area for the world is ever increasingly moving northward. And that effect is actually starting to happen in the UK.

1:17:48

We've also had over a period of time now

1:17:53

events where we've had supermarket shelves there

1:17:56

due to lack of food production and on availability.

1:18:02

I asked one very simple question. How many electricity power costs are we had in the last few years?

1:18:11

How can we justify taking out 1000s of acres variable food producing soils when we seem to be supplied with electricity to meet our needs? Obviously, there are changes afoot that I'm not aware of. But quite simply, we've not had any power costs to actually justify moving in this direction.

1:18:35

Burton cotton Hi Marlin broil ideal locations for power stations as we've seen for many, many years. And as we have now, in the process of manufacture, nuclear fusion plants, small plants, which could quite easily be sited on all of these sites, not interfering with any agricultural fields whatsoever.

1:18:58

Today, even though I'm retired, I have spent the day cultivating soils, it must be at least three be because if the wind blew it, and it hit you it would kill you.

1:19:11

Quite simply, I can testify that this year, the harvest on that three B land has been well in excess of four tonnes per acre, I would suggest it was somewhere just over 11 tonnes a hectare. That there is no justification in ceasing that production we've got

1:19:33

a significantly

1:19:35

and rapidly increasing population in this country and we're going to have an even greater need for food production in the future. The most important things to life are oxygen, water, and food.

1:19:52

This country and successive governments seem to have sold most of our useful elements of production abroad.

1:20:00

We now import in loads of goods into this country. And at that point, we were held to ransom, where anything difficult occurs within the world scene.

1:20:11

Solar panels I have of my own. And I on adult day, they probably produce about a third of the amount of electricity is what I do on a on a nice sunny day, but night that don't produce anything. And so you're going to need some very, very, very large storage facilities to accommodate the cold nights during the winter.

1:20:36

And community welfare, well, it doesn't seem to come into the equation at all, no one seems to be interested. Landlord welfare is enormous. As I've been speculated 1000 pounds an acre

1:20:54

1000 pounds an acre

1:20:59

it's more of a bribe than the payment.

1:21:04

And I'm afraid I have to speak the truth. Lots of people are probably very sensitive about this. But that is a fact.

1:21:13

Use high rents to attract the landlords knowing we the end user will pick up the bill at the end of the day.

1:21:22

And so all I can say is that I haven't seen and would like to see real justification for these proposals. How on earth you can take all this 30 seconds left Thank you. Now on earth you can take all this land out of production or something which is

1:21:42

oddly proven it's taken 11 years on my house roof to

1:21:50

pay for itself with the solar panels that I have. And the 100,000 acres of land which is taken out of production for one type of development another each year is quite scandalous and we don't want any more Thank you.

1:22:21

Okay, thank you very much that comes to the conclusion of those parties who have registered to speak who are registered as interested parties. I have two other participants who are not identified as

1:22:38

interested parties in the context of that definition. And I want to hear from them now. That's Frank Clark. Firstly

1:22:50

okay

1:22:52

then Andrew Gilchrist?

1:22:56

Nope. Okay

1:23:03



Okay, thank you very much

1:23:22

not kiss that brings me to the conclusion of those parties.

1:23:30

When she comes back to my note, there were a couple of people who identified at the very start who hadn't previously identified that they wish to speak so I will ask them to confirm I can just find

1:23:44

where my Nope that was

1:23:55

kind of to find the individuals names rather than waste time with that there was two parties. Research chap in a purple shirt.

1:24:04

If you can just come forward tell me your name.

1:24:20

Hello, everyone, my name is Simon Stiles. I'm a local peasant.

1:24:32

I will assume that means of residence.

1:24:35

There we go. Okay, Mr. Stiles. As with everybody else, you have five minutes and they start knowing. Thank you. I would like to make four points please, I think all of which had been made before.

1:24:49

First one, I believe along with my friends and fellow villagers, that the four solar projects this inquiry has been asked to consider are in fact one project which has been divided

1:25:00

into for to prevent and discourage your good self from being able to consider the whole project as one unit. And that, for me is absolutely crucial.

1:25:14

I would say that that is probably immoral. And if it's not immoral, it's intrinsically unfair to all parties, including yourself to all concerned the evidence for this assertion. The meeting in glentworth village was informed by the presenter that the four companies have directors in common. By that link, they are very clearly linked together. So should be considered as one project. All four of the projects are using the same legal team, as evidenced by the meeting with Westland District Council, which only one legal team arrived, therefore it is one project not four.

1:26:00

And furthermore, all four are to use the same trench to reach the grid connections at cotton, if they are not talking to each other. How on earth is that to be achieved?

1:26:12

Clearly one company presented as for the first inquiry should consider the four applications as one, that would be the moral position. Second point, the fact that the same process is now happening four times over is extremely confusing to those of us to whom it is being done. Particularly now the inquiries appear to run concurrently, which makes even more of a nonsense of the notion that there are four separate projects rather than one enormous one.

1:26:43

It's really hard to understand and remember, to which pieces of information that one has responded, making it much more likely that errors in evidence will occur, and therefore good quality arguments will be missed.

1:27:01

I would ask as a result of that, is it possible that the evidence presented to one quarter of the enquiry could automatically be transferred to the other three, it would save us all coming back repeating ourselves three more times.

1:27:19

Food security is clearly a national concern. The war in Ukraine is merely one expected demand on UK farm land which has not been predicted in informal conversation. At the end of the glentworth meeting, the DDM representative that's the local land agent said the bumper crops from the land in question last year was a once in 25 year event, I'd say how the hell does he know.

1:27:46

It's not just common sense that given the uncertainties of climate change that heavier land with greater ability to withstand hot summers will be of greater value in terms of food production, and therefore even more of a loss on the desert of solar panels.

1:28:03

These four stroke one projects will completely destroy the centuries old view from the Lincoln edge and destroy the habitat for wildlife. That edge in the view is designated as a landscape of great value.

1:28:19

The meeting glentworth was told that deer fencing to keep installations would be used to keep the installation secure. Therefore, where will the deer go?

1:28:31

Solar panels work well on roofs then nonintrusive we have them on our roof and people don't even know that they are there. They do not however generate well in winter when there are short days and they certainly don't work at night.

1:28:48

Therefore this 7000 acres plus will work for less than half a year every year when currently it is producing food directly or indirectly for 365 days a year.

1:29:02

Thank you so I'm done

1:29:16

now that brings me to

1:29:18

the blue t shirt once you haven't got your name but I'll take a note of it now again.

1:29:29

S button now that's fine. Then just give me your name and you're interested in the site. They were in local resident.

1:29:38

And

1:29:40

I just find that there says five minutes diet and I find that this whole enterprise is the culmination of rich investors who come across rich and greedy landowners and there is no

1:29:56

absolutely nothing that has been proven that these

1:30:00

I beg,

1:30:02

gargantuan schemes are going to produce anywhere near the energy that has been advertised. And

1:30:10

I find this actually just destruction of arable land on a scale that's never been seen.

1:30:19

And at the end of it that it will be no scope that this will be returned to Audible land. It will be written down in deeds as it's so down at this will be terminated at Brown land and then turned into a sea of Amazon warehouses stretching from hems well Cliff all the way into gains, but this is what will happen.

There is no interest from the current investors to fund any of this solar, it's just pie in the sky to become brown brownfield land then turn it into commercial premises I would have done on coal sites, through Doncaster things like that, it's a step to creating brownfield sites for profit.

1:31:02

On the on the scale, we are to them minions. But across this room, you'll probably find that as a cross section, the

1:31:13

the rejection of this plan is completely and utterly under percent, not one person have I spoken to within the village, the community of people around it have went, Oh, this is good. This will be good for us. Not one person, they find that good. They find that they interviews that came out to the villages, the people that went were rude. They were not interested, they were there because they had to be the comments that came across, especially from Canadian solar well upon the man that turned up didn't want to be there. It was rude to everybody, even people who showed them what he was saying was rubbish. He just was not interested in being there. I think, as it's been said, this is just a tick box exercise for them to try and get their way on. There is no way that any of this makes sense to us. It makes sense to the country. As has been said solar panels work in the sun. They don't work at night. They don't work when it's bad weather, Lincoln shows gets quite a lot of dark at night. And it's got a lot of bad weather. I think there's well this is just as I said,

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it's a meeting of investors and rich and greedy landowners and a power station that shot down. That is it.

1:32:34

From there, it's just the M the logistical chain of creating the solar panels, their journey around the world, the way that they get around the world and end up in Lincolnshire, the refs come from places such as the Central African Republic, which is renowned for its honor, it's not for its human rights at all, they're non existent there. They are then made in China, which is again, normal human rights. They are then shipped on massive fleet ships, which been tank

1:33:07

tanker oil, highly polluted to Canada, they are then shipped on to the UK, then the US HCV vehicles to travel them to say, then you go the plant, nothing there screams green to me, it just screams greed. There's only one layer missing. And those two words, and they seem to have swapped them about

1:33:26

the next part. So this is me just on the hoof. But my notes are the same, and I'm not spoiling it, which is good.

1:33:41

The visual impact of this land, right? So I'm obviously Scottish. I I've resided here, because of the beauty of this land, you drive on the top road where we live, like you look down and you see nothing but

agricultural land, you see people about the work everything, the nature around here second to none. This will dissolve overnight, as the scheme as a scheme would take hold and decimate the landscape for 60 years and onwards because there's no way that this will ever turn back to agricultural land.

1:34:13

And then the brute force type of plan. And so one last point, as I said, photos one,

1:34:19

what's happened to you is to overwhelm the public because they know that we've not got the financial resource to fight back. But as these limited and these limit unlimited funds of your investors do. What happens is people lose hope people lose well, but within us there's enough people with enough heart to keep on fighting this and we will fight every day.

1:34:45

So and that brings to the end of my ranting but I hope it comes across. Well thank you very much all

1:35:03

Okay, I think that brings to a conclusion or lose representative. I did have one person Mr. Balto who has a hand up. So I believe he's with us virtually. Mr. Balto if you wish to put your camera on

1:35:22

tell us who you are,

1:35:24

what your interest is?

1:35:27

Well, thank you for letting me speak, sir. I'm David belt and local resident at 38 years I live in nice park. And I'm currently the chair of nice parish council. The reason I couldn't come in earlier, sorry. Just a second.

1:35:44

Yes, parish council. Yeah, no, that's fine. Fine, if you couldn't make it earlier, but that's fine as well. I will give you your five minutes as with everybody else. So if you just want to make your comments, and you have five minutes starting not, thank you very much. The reason I wasn't done earlier was I got some very good treatment for a dog bite down at John Copeland hospital. And I'm here now.

1:36:09

Everybody I want to say to you, as a chairman of the parish council, you've done very well tonight, nearly everything I'd had down to say. And you've covered everything well done and keep it up.

1:36:21

on a bigger scale. Somebody asked what was the biggest project currently, as far as I know, it's project fortress, what a name down in Kent, and it's 900 acres. And if we think we've got the management skills to go from 900 to 7000, or

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10,000. It's probably like going from Stockton to Darlington railway, and then saying, Let's build HS two. And we're not making very good job of that even after 200 years of learning.

1:36:53

There was a great series just finished by Chris Packham, who I do respect, he reminded us that the earth is several billion years old, and for all of that time, there wasn't any life on it. And then some life did appear. And I do possibly agree with him. We're not making it any better for the world. But there isn't a statesman alive who could march off or a civil servant who could write a stiff letter to tell mount Aetna to stop erupting as I believe it was at the end of last week, or trail down to South America and wag a finger at Papa cat petal. The world will do what the world wants to do. It lent the Grow Romans grow wine in Lincoln. And then in 1600 The diarist peeps noted that they roasted a whole oxen on the frozen river Thames, because it was a middle of a mini ice age, which I think we're probably going to end up having after this hot spell. If you study geography and the

1:37:55

the way the world spins round and is affected by all the gravitational forces.

1:38:00

We haven't really noted really sorry, it was noted that if we decided to use slaves to make stuff, like the Chinese are allegedly going to use the Uyghurs we'd get slapped down pretty fast.

1:38:17

And somebody else noted that this was a pretty much somebody had said let's get to net zero they haven't thought it through. I'll tell you the same thing as I said before the people in power have caught with their pants down. They've got to do something about it.

1:38:33

But offski A famous theologian, he wrote a book called the ascent of man, I just wonder in the back of his draw the maybe the sequel which may be the Descent of Man Thank you very much well done everybody

1:38:54

thank you very much Mr Belson?

1:39:18

Okay, thank you very much that takes me to the end of the list of people I had, who made representations who wanted to speak and in the context of anybody else who identified earlier that they wish to speak for I draw matters to conclusion. Is there anybody else that would wish to make any representations to me?

1:39:40

Yes, sir, do you want to come forward and tell me who you are?

1:39:51

Hi, I am Callum O'Grady I live as a local resident.

1:39:57

Just wanting to say looking at

1:40:00

Round. Clearly, you seem to have missed a demographic in actually engaging with people.

1:40:08

Would it be bold to assume?

1:40:11

Sorry, I started your face? Would it be bold to assume that you've missed my sort of generation? Or are we just resigned to the fact that this is happening? And we have no say? Because if it wasn't for my parents being engaged in this, I wouldn't have even known that this was happening.

1:40:39

Okay, thank you very much.

1:40:52

Okay, I think that takes us to a conclusion on all those people who wish to speak.

1:40:58

As I said, right at the start, I will give the applicant an opportunity to make any comments that they wish to make if they wish to pick up on any of the issues raised or if they don't, that's totally up to them. Before I draw my office to close, Mr.

1:41:16

Thank you, sir. Me standing on behalf of the applicant. And yes, firstly, I'd like to thank everyone who's in attendance for submissions today. I have a short response and a couple of clarifications, and then we can follow up with those in writing. Just to clarify, yes, low carbon as a developer of solar projects, the African has submitted the appropriately detailed plans for its scheme, in accordance with the formal statutory procedures would it is required to follow by the Planning Act 2008. The environmental impact assessment or the lately significant effects of the scheme has been carried out in accordance with environmental best practice by qualified experts and their topic area.

1:41:57

There are four separate schemes being developed by three different companies, which have been the subject of submissions today, namely, Pete Burton, Kortum, West Burton and Trowbridge, and three of

those schemes have been allocated a grid connection location, and the quarter National Grid substation.

1:42:13

Well, as these schemes are separate, the developers are working closely to mitigate environmental and land effects across all four projects. cumulative effects have been considered and assessed across all topic areas, and available an examination for consideration and the overall planning balance by yourself so and by the Secretary of State when determining the application.

1:42:35

Before moving on to a few clarifications, I would flag that the agendas for the issue specific hearings will be held over the next few days do deal with many of the topics raised specifically landscape and visual impact agricultural land, technology of generating station and batteries, fire and flood risk and cumulative effects. As for the other hearings, these will be streamed online and recordings made available to assure the local community that matters are being considered by the examining authority, and in due course will be considered by the Secretary of State.

1:43:07

moving their net to a couple of clarifications with regards to agricultural land, the applicant submitted a documented deadline to refer to as further information on agricultural land. That's examination reference rep to dat 04 sec.

1:43:24

This demonstrates that the temporary loss of a best and more special tale land in Lincolnshire from all DCO and TCP applications for shoulder skins is one point 60 and present is a very small fraction of that 1% For any permanent loss of vMV land. With regards to crop yield, I will direct the communities to the Africans respond to Q one dot 12 dot 11 of the examining authorities read frustrating questions, which provides information on crop yields with the solar and energy storage Park State.

1:43:58

Moving into the construction period, I can confirm that the construction period assessed was a range of 24 to 36 months and it is either a shorter or longer period depending on the topic under consideration. Some topics may consider a short term or intensive period is more impactful than a longer January than a longer duration sorry. And this is explained for each technical topic chapter.

1:44:21

In relation to this database management, this is expressly referred to unsecured and the wording and requirement 19 to have shedule to have the draft DCO and then the framework decommissioning Environmental Management Plan which is document a PP 226 and do courses eight waste management proposals will have to be approved by the local authority.

1:44:42



Finally, excuse me, please in relation to the vegetation removal plan, which was referenced and we will confirm and making submissions but that is figure 10 dash two one, and it's available examination Library Reference rep two dash 017

1:45:01

And then finally is with regards to the assessment of community and social impacts. This is assessed in the socio economics on land use assessment, which is available at document EPP dash zero to one. Those are the final clarifications I have. And as I said, I will follow up with those on writing.

1:45:18

Thank you very much.

1:45:25

Okay, thank you very much. I've got a few concluding remarks, I would just also find out that the, the ENSET process or you have indicated it's complicated and somewhat difficult to engage with it is primarily a written process. So just because a matter isn't engaged with in terms of either an issue specific hearing, or I don't conduct a hearing in that regard, there is the opportunity to provide written information on that. And I will read that and deal with that matter there. So there is that process that's involved. So just because there's not an issue specific hearing on a particular matter, does not mean it is important and relevant.

1:46:09

Terms of closing the hearing that we've had tonight, I just like to take this opportunity to thank all the speakers for your contributions. And for the applicant applicant for your attendance and contribution. I will be assisted if speakers who have made their contributions tonight do provide me with a written version of your submissions.

1:46:31

If that can be done by deadline three, which is Friday, the first of September. So for those of you that came up and made statements to men read from loose statements, if you can just provide copies of those statements to me, then that gives me a written record of although I've taken notes that that would be helpful. You will know that I have time reserved for further open floor hearings, if required in October, if there's a necessity to hold those, although if there is not, I will not. That depends on how things progress unless I receive requests from people who have not spoken. I don't think that there will be a necessity for further open floor hearings, you get an opportunity that opportunity has been had. And we can move on with that. This is the second such open floor hearing. So we've already dealt with that. And as I say there is multiple opportunities to engage in terms of either issue specific hearings, or in terms of the written process.

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That brings us down to the conclusion of this evening. Thank you all very much. Thank you for your participation. Thank you for your comments. I have taken note of those and thank you very much. Time is no

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1947 and the open floor hearing is closed. Thank you