

I attended the open floor hearing on 22 August and agreed with all the arguments put forward by the public opposing this project. As I'm sure you could tell this is a very emotive subject which we all feel extremely strongly about. This is our countryside, where we choose to live for all the benefits this area brings to our lives.

I have heard that the developer claimed during the issue specific hearing that the landscape is already industrialised as a result of the power stations! These are on the other side of the River Trent to where this project is proposed and they are a very distant landmark on the horizon, they cannot be compared to acres of glass which will surround us. The power stations are surrounded by green fields as far as the eye can see. This is the developer clutching at straws. Why are these projects (Gate Burton, also West Burton, Cottam and Tillbridge Solar) not being located closer to the power stations? There are fewer villages, many of which are less populated on that side of the Trent.

The developer claimed hedges will screen the 800,000+ solar panels but it takes years for a hedge to reach the kind of height that will be required to disguise these panels, and from a more distant view point I have no doubt you will be able to see them. The viewpoint photos have been taken dead level with the road and field, standing adjacent to a hedge, also on a fish eye lens, which always distort the subject of the photograph. But there is a hill in the area, to the east of the A156 and undulating land will always allow different views other than those the developer is pointing out. I have no doubt these panels will be visible from many areas, not to mention any public footpaths which cross these fields. It's quite clear to me that a developer hoping to get their project approved will pick and choose the most optimal viewpoints to support their case.

This area will become industrialised for the rest of my life, and how effective will this use of productive farm land be? Listening to other members of the public at the OFH a number of them had solar panels on their property and made a point of saying that they do not produce as much energy as we are led to believe. Obviously cloudy days and night time impact their efficiency. With this in mind would it not be more appropriate to locate solar panels on rooftops of industrial and commercial buildings (eg. huge Amazon warehouses) and houses (eg. new housing developments) where the land has already been taken for those purposes.

The number of solar projects proposed for this area is also of great concern. Gate Burton, along with Cottam, West Burton and Tillbridge will take around 10,000 acres of land, hugely impacting on views, nature, hedgerows, house prices and tourism to the area. I also urge you to seriously consider to effect these projects will have on the mental health of local residents. These projects are not what we want for our future.