

GABE IP-248

IP REFERENCE: 20037283

Comments on Issue Specific Hearings, 22nd – 24th August

1. INDUSTRIALISED - NO : The Developers claim the landscape is already industrialised by the Cottam and West Burton Power Stationsthey are so wrong. These are considered landmarks on the distant horizon, in fact architectural in my view. They do not conceal the views of the countryside looking towards them they do not cover thousands of acres of agricultural land.

2. INDUSTRIALISED – YES : In reality there is no amount of natural hedgerow screening that will disguise or mask about 1,000,000 solar panels, security fencing, batteries, sub-stations, 5-meter tall invasive security cameras and all the other paraphernalia. Neither could it lessen our awareness of the whole scheme when driving, walking or cycling and generally just enjoying nature, the peace, the inner calm yet feeling of freedom the countryside brings. Once the leaves have dropped from the native hedgerows the entire scheme would be a visible eyesore for close to 6 months of the year, so pray tell me where does the word 'screening' accurately fit in to the narrative ?

3. DURATION : There will be no vista with this scheme.... Low Carbon will have taken this away from not just me, but all those affected by it for the duration of all our lives..... 60 years, a generation in fact. At least 15 years of that time we will be waiting for the whips to grow.

4. RISK : We are all hugely concerned about the BESS and the dangers. We have read about these, we have seen images of fires caused by thermal runaway, difficult to extinguish and toxic aftermath from such explosions to the environment. The developer has chosen to ignore any increased risk to health and safety by siting the BESS batteries only 2m apart and reject the Fire Service recommended distance of 4 meters. Unfortunately, as it is not enforceable only a guideline, Low Carbon has not done enough to mitigate public risk.

5. SAFETY : Low Carbon have presented an inadequate solution to extinguishing any BESS fires in the form of water storage tanks on site. They would require access to millions of gallons of water - this quantity cannot be held on site. They do not have access to a mains water supply on the site and again have not done enough to mitigate public risk.

6. MYTH : It is a myth that the solar scheme will produce large amounts of low carbon electricity. It can only generate for half of its lifetime and not in the dark, cold winter months when all of us need it most, pretty much inactive throughout winter. What we do know is solar schemes gobble up highly productive farmland.

7. HEALTH : It is unimaginable having to consider living with for 365 days of the year for 60 years, no escape, encircled, imprisoned by four solar projects of this enormity a few miles from each other. No-one has ever lived with solar long term being surrounded with 7,000,000 panels and associated hardware – what do we really know of such EMF effects on people and wildlife on this scale. How can we really be certain we will not be harmed ?

What I and other know already is this is causing mental anguish, stress and in turn physical harm to residents.

P A Mitchell

31 August 2023