

This is in reply to statements made by Pinsent Masons on behalf of the Applicant low carbon at the CAH1 on the 22nd of August 2023.

3.3 The Applicant to set out briefly the consideration of Article 1 of the First Protocol to the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) in relation to the application.

4.5 Whether, in accordance with s122(3) of PA 2008, there is a compelling case in the public interest for the compulsory acquisition proposed, both in relation to the need in the public interest for the project to be carried out and in respect of the private loss to those affected.

For both questions, statements were made by the Applicant that the proposed scheme would generate large amounts of affordable low carbon energy, provide security of supply and that this would be in the nation's best interests.

The statements made were factually incorrect, oversimplified and out of context.

Simple mathematics show that the GBEP would provide less than 0.15% of our current electricity needs and in the scheme of things this could never be classed as a large amount. There is also nothing affordable about large scale solar in relation to consumer costs. The UK electricity supply will indefinitely need the backing of thermal power plants to fill in for renewable (especially solar) shortfalls. Keeping these plants on standby is extremely costly to the end user. The fact that renewables are intermittent, and by definition they are not able to provide security of supply.

Solar is only affordable to one. The Developer.

In summary, GBEP is a power station of the lowest power density, it would consume thousands of acres of farmland, destroy landscapes and communities, and would still only produce small amounts of intermittent electricity providing little in national energy security.

There is no evidence that Solar's low operational costs could ever be passed on to the consumer. It is therefore clearly not in the public's best interests to grant DCO to the GBEP. To do so would violate human rights and undermine the requirements for compulsory acquisition.

Unfortunately, there is a lot of ignorance around the capabilities of large scale solar in the UK and it is time to wake up and see the emperor's new clothes for what they are!

Solar is quite simply the worse ground mounted generating option we have available and is barely fit to be classed as National Infrastructure.

It is not in the nation's best interests to rob so much farmland for such little power.

The applicant has failed to make a compelling case.